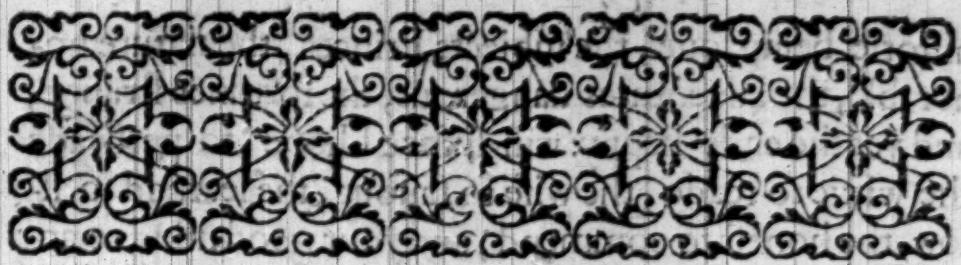


THE
STRANGE
FORTUNES OF
TWO EXCELLENT
PRINCES: IN THEIR
lives and loues, to their e-
quall Ladies in all the
tides of true ho-
nor.

Imprinted at London by
P. Short, for Nicholas
Ling. 1600.





To the woorshipfull my verie good
friend the faouurer of all good actions, and nour-
isher of good spirits John Linewray Esquire, Clerke of the
deliteries and the delinerance of all her Maiesties Ordinance,
and other munition as well within and out of the Tower of
London, as all other her Highnesse Stores within
the Realme of England, health, hap-
pines and beauen.



IR, vnhankefulnesse is so neare to
vnhonelie, as to auoid the touch of
both, I haue been often desirous of
some good meane, to deserue some
one of your many received faours,
which loath to burie in such obliu-
on, that I should be thought vnwor-
thie the regard of so good a minde, I haue thought good
to acquaint your kindnesse with such occurrents, as haue
lately come to my hands, though they bee no matter of
this state, yet were they such tracts in the fortunes of two
Princes, as being read with that discretion, which, in your
good leasure, can iudge of the labour of wit, in the ho-
nour of vertue, I doubt not but that you will faourable
patronage this first apparant prooef of my loue, till in
some better occasion of employmēt, you maie haue a
more sufficient triall of my affection. The substance of my

The Epistle Dedicatore.

historic being loue, the subiects Princes, the nature ho-
norable, the aduentures dangerous, the fortunes strange,
and yet the ende happy: will suffice I hope, to perswade
the wittie to reade, the wise to fauour, the learned to al-
low, the honest to commend, and your good mind to ac-
cept of: which being no more then I desire, nor lesse then
I hope of, leauing my booke to your kind patience, with
my selfe to your commandement I rest.

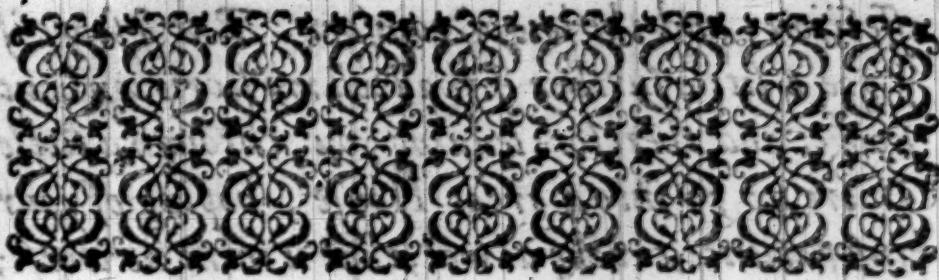
Yours, very much in assurance,

N. BRETON.



TO





TO THE READER.

Courteous Reader, for so I hope to find you, or else shall I bee sorry, to haue bestowed so good a tearme vpon you: Writers in these dayes haue so manie humors to censure their labours, that it is easier to runne mad with seeking to please euery body, then to be wise with displeasing of any: but since this is nothing to that which followeth, let me tell you, that if you will kindise reade, that is friendise offred you, and part with a little mony, for a matter of more worth; it maie be you shall haue more contentment, then you looke for: in briefe you shall reade of much varietie of matter, the fortunes of Princes, the true honour of Ladies, the vertue of loue, and the life of honor, the subtlety of a knaue, and the rewarding of a villaine: the constancie of affection,

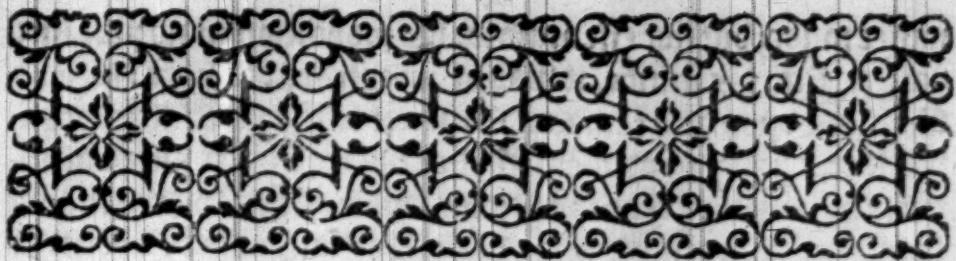
To the Reader.

affection; and the iose of comfort. But I feare if
I goe a little further I shall tell my storie without
Booke: and therefore leauing you, through a little
Doore, to go into a great House, hoping of your
kind patience, to take al wel, that is ment no worse;
and to speake as well of my labours, as my goodwill
would be glad to deserue, I rest

Your friend, N. B.

The





The Historie of two Princes, Fan- tiro and Penillo.

P In the Ilandes of Ballino, neare vnto the Cittie of Dolino, there liued a great Duke named Firento Sanelli, a great Lord I saie, for that he was great both in honor and possessions: he was wisse, and therfore much honored; honorable, and therfore much beloued; with his wealth he was full of charity, and therfore enued of none, but the courtous: hee was valiant, and therfore feared of the wicked: but courteous, and therfore followed with the kinde: and vertuous, and therfore blessed by the highest. This Lord had to wive a swete Ladie, called Merilla, a creature of much worth, in the best construction of commendation; and if a woman might be like an Angel, she might be sanctified for her vertues: her modestie with his gravity, her pittie with his valour, her loue with his charity, her bountie with his wealth, and her zeale with his vertue, made such a contunction in perfections, as that vnder the heauens, there were hardlie found such creatures on the earth.

This blessed Lord and Ladie had issue male, onlie one sonne named Penillo, and female one onlie daughter named Merilla: the parents of these two children, liued till they salwe them both to followe their course in the best content of their affections: Penillo was of the age of fourte and twentie yeares, of stature tall, ruddie of colour, well complexioned, but not so faire; his haire not blacke, but somewhat inclining thereto, his counte-

The Historic of two Princes,

nance milde, but not effeminate, his proportion in no part imperfect, & for his minde, it was of an excellent temper: he was silent, but vpon god cause, and then not to learne what to speake; resolute, vpon god aduisement, but not rash vpon any aduenture: he was wel read in histories, and well qualifed in manie pointes, but especiallie in the varietie of languages, wher in he exceeded manie of his fathers court: he was stately for his wit, gentle in nature, kinde with discretion, bountiful in rewards, not vaine in affection, and constant in friendship; in somme, he was amiable among Ladies, affable among Courtiers, sociable among soldiery, and honorable among all: such a one, as was a sole to his Parents, a spectable to his Court, a comfort to his friendes, and an honour to his country.

Now for his sister, as shee was exceeding faire, so was shee admirably wise, yet with such modest kindnesse, that shee was so honored for the one, that she could not but bee loued for the other: For euerie part of her proportion, let it suffice, that nature shewed her Arte, in leauing nothing imperfect; for her stature not tall, nor verie low, but in a sweete meane; her countenance sober with such a sweetnesse, as rauished the loue of much discretion; her speech not much, but bittered with such government, as amazed the hearers, that could judge of the worthinesse of commendation; her affection chiefly carried vnto vertue, and her loue knowne but vnto one, of whom dependeth a great part of my historie, as hereafter you shall heare. But I will leaue further to talke either of her, or her lover in this place: and onelie entreat of another Duke, who dwelt in the Ilandes of Cotalie, confining vpon the aforesaid Ilandes of Beltrio.

This Duke had to name Ordillo, a man famous for much worth as well in wit as valour: who in all his warres against his enemies was never knowne to turne his backe, but with aduantage, vpon retire, gane ouer no assault till he had entered the strengths, nor surceased his warres till he had the honour of the field: he was at home a Lambe, and abroad a Lyon, where wisedome with clemencie so governed the nature of his disposition, that his subiectes no lesse loued him, then his enemies

did honno; him: In particular, to late downe his commendation were but tedious, and therfore in somme let it suffice that he was a Prince of that worth, that made him held worthe of his government.

This Duke had to wife a gracious Ladie, whose godnes was such in the worlde, as made her sonne fit for the heauens: for such was her delight in divine contemplations, and so little her soote in anie earthlie substance, that languishing in the wo;ld with longing after heauen, shee liued not manie yeres with her loving Lord on the earth, but the Lorde of all loue tooke her vp into the heauens: yet before her departure from this life, she had by her Lorde the Duke, two blessed chiloren, a sonne and a daughter; her sonne, named Fantiro, and her daughter Simila. The young Lord, a man of exellent partes, both for body, and mind, whose particular perfections, would require a volume to describe in their true kindes, but for that by a little light, makyng the whole daile be considered, let thus much suffice, that both for valour and vertue, he might well be called the Souldiers Dictionarie, and the Courtiers Looking glasse: And for his sister, if I coulde as braselie set downe her excellencie, I wold not thinke it the least point of eloquence; but for all those rare perfections that makyng dignifie the name of an earthlie creature, I mate saie, shee was in the honour of reason, the wonder of nature. But least in my introduction into my historie, I grove more tedious then pleasing, I will leave this Duke Ordillo with his blessed chiloren for a while, and I will retarne to the Duke Firento, of the Islands of Walino, and his sonne Penillo, one of the most galant gentlemen in the wo;ld.

This Duke Firento finding his sonne of so noble a spirite, as could not containe his content, within the confiues of his fathers countrey, but that as well by his delight in the reading of histories, his forwardnesse to the warres, his conuersation among strangers, and especiallie such as p;osed armes, noting I say his disposition soerclined to the trausiling life, that he feared he shold not long keape him at home, upon god deliberation, how best to aduise him either for his sake, or trauaile to his likynge, finding him one daie by chance all alone walking in

in a close arbour in his garden, commanding apart all his atten-
dantes, tooke occasion in great kindeste thus to deale with
him.

Penillo, what sondnesse it were in mee, to flatter thee, with
thy much worthinesse of my loue, I had rather thou shouldest
conceiue, then I explayne, although I reioice therein more of
my knowledge, then I would haue thee prouid of my content:
but my dære sonne, let me tell thee, that as I thinke my selfe
not a little happte in my hope of thy god, as well for my privat
comfort, as the profit of my whole countrey: so, if by the indis-
cretion of thy disposition, or by the crueltie of fortune, crossing
alivates the course of vertue, thou shouldest not onely deceire
my hope, but destroie my happiness, to the sorrow of mine age,
and cutting off my daies, thinke with thy selfe my deare sonne,
if it may lie in thy power to prevent the woe, and performe
the best, shouldest not thou find thine owne vnkindnes, in pwo-
ning so vnnaturall, as to grieue the soule of him that dearely lo-
uesth thee, and to be an occasion of his death, who vnder heauen
was the originall of thy life: Be not appauled my son, speake
freely I giue thee leauue; if thou canst imagine the cause of my
speach, and as thou best likeliest, without the least doubt of my dis-
pleasure, I p[ro]ñe thee giue me thy answere.

The young Lorde, little expecing this kind of greeting with
his god father, and never vnyprovided to answere the darkeſt
demand that might be made him, especiallie from his father, in
whom he could not haue anie thought of the least dislike of him,
with a staled humble countenance began thus to frame his re-
plie. My gratiuous Lord, as I reioice not a little in the greatness
of your mo[e] naturall, then deserved loue, whiche looking orelie
into your owne godnesse, haue builded your hope of my happi-
nes, so if I could finde in my selfe the least thought of vnhank-
folnesse, whereby I might iustly purchase your harde opinion,
surely, I shoulde thinke my selfe worthy of death, that shoulde
live, to giue offence vnto the faireſt comfort of my life: But, as
my conſcience doth assure me of no ſuch criminall conceit, ſo do
I protest that I doe not a little marueile what ſhould leade you
into this manner of queſtion: ſo, as I cannot bee vniatvrall,

so will I not feare you to be unkinde, but humbly beseech you
for the better accomplishing of your content, in some plainer
method to acquaint me with your god meaning.

The olde man loath to mo're griefe in his sonne, whose deser-
ued loue he was fullie assured of, and yet willing to be satisfied
of his true resolution, touching his humour of travaile, with
much adoe brake into this speech with him. Penillo, I haue of
late noted in thee, as well by thy studie in the languages, as by
thy conuersation among strangers, and thy loue to soulesters,
that the aduenture of thy fortune abroad will be more pleasing
to thee, then thy best contentment at home: but if I might by
the advise of my exerience, perswade thee to the care of my
knowledge, I shoulde easily make thee finde the sweete of the old
prouerbe, that home is home, be it neuer so homely: The row-
ling stone gathereth no mosse, & that prospereth in one ground
mata perish in another. Aduentures are dangerous, the seas
boistrous, and the warres perillous, and great is the difference
betweene strange compansions, and home friendes: what canst
thou see abroad, that is not here? The same earth, and little dif-
ferent in nature either for heat or cold; the same sunne shining
there that shineth here; men and wemen in the same shape that
thou seest here; in their universitie, the same kinde of schollers;
in their cities, marchantes, and men of trade and traffique as
we haue in ours; in their villages, such farmers and labouerters;
in their tribunall seates, such judges; in their wautes, such men
of armes; in their court such Lords and Ladies, and in all pla-
ces such kinde of people as in some places of our dominion,
thou maist take notice of, if thou be circumspect: what shall I
saie to perswade thee rather to staine at home, then tray abroad?
Thou hast a father that loues thee more dearely, then any scound
can doe; a sister, whose vertue with her beautie, deseruest an
honorable fortune, and which I thinke not thy least charge in
conscience to haue a care, in as much as maist lie in thee to ac-
complish, thy mother holdes thee so deere as her life, thy friends
make a lewell of thy kindnesse, thy followers in thine honour
seale the hope of their fortune, and my subiectes in thy wisdome
repose the happiness of their whole state: All this and manie

more particular causes of content, thou hast here at home, like-
lie every daie to encrease, where abroade, how bitter wil be thy
change, I feare to thinke, shold sorowe to heare, and shall not
lens to disgeste, though perhaps such mate bee the mercifull na-
ture of the gloriouſ height of the heauens highest grace, as mate
favour thy disposition, prosper thy aduentures, and blesse thee
in all thy actions. But as it is ill to distrust God, so is it not god
to tempt him: answere me therefore truly to that I demand of
thee, whether thy deſire be to trauaile, or not, & what are þ rea-
sons that perſuade thy resolution, howſoever it be, þ shalt find
in me that kindnes, that the condition of thy loue deserueth.

The young Prince caried no leſſe in obedience to the loue of
his faſher, then willing to aduenture his fortune, to attieue
the honor of his hope, in as god tearmes as he coulde, vpon
the ſodaine made his faſher this anſwerc. If it mate become ſo
vnworthie a ſon as my ſelfe, to ſo honourable a faſher as your
maieſtie, toſt and vpon argumentes of contrōverſie, for the di-
rection of his course of life; craning pardon for what ſooneſter I
ſhall ſpeake, that mate perhaps be vnpleaſing to your erpecta-
tion: I will not only deliuer you the truth of my intent, but
the reaſons that haue inducde me into the determination
of my resolution. I haue heard your maieſtie often ſaie that
nature begetteth no deformitie, but rather the true image of it
ſelfe; and as in outward proportion, ſo do I thinke in the qua-
litie of the ſpirit, the ſonne may participate with the faſher; and
although that vertue be the gift onelie of God, yet in the incli-
nation and diſposition of the mind, the ſonne mate take ſome-
what of the faſher's ſpirit. For proo of whereof, I haue euen heard
you ſaie that þou were your faſher's ſonne, ſuch was your de-
ſire to ſee the world, for till he was maried he had no deſire to
live at home, barde fare, colde lodging, bitteſt stormes, sharpe
lightnes in a foreme ſoule, or in þis Ocean ſea, were more plea-
ſing to him, then the moſt daintie banquet, the softeſt bed, the
calmeſt weaſer, and the sweeteſt peace, that either his faſher's
court, his own chamber, or the moſt pleaſant Paradise that his
whole countrey at home could yeld him: and ſuch were your de-
lightes, rather to heare a Trumpet vngifeſte, then a Lute in a
chamber,

chamber, and to see the assault of a forte, then the dauncing of a maske. Your maiestie wold ever preferre a trotting courser, before an ambling stotecloth, a peale of ordinance, before a ring of belies, and a bloudie sword before a painted looking glasse: in somme, if in allsuch courses of your conceit, you followed the inclination of my Cr and father, will you think it strange in me to follow the steps of your affection? Hauie you not allowed my reading of histories, and how many of any account are written onelie of home actions? Hauie you not wist me to make much of strangers? and shall I not studie languages therewith to entertaine them? I must confesse there is no friend to a father, whose loue cannot be separated from the fruit of his own body. Home dwelling is full of ease, but not of honour, which is rather purchased by aduentures, then by nature inherited: friends are kind, so mate strangers be full of courtesie, and he that looketh not into the world, wanteth much wherein to glorie the Lo:de God. My sisters fortune I had rather leane to the effect of your wisedome, then my weaknes: and knowing her discretion will nothing feare the honor of her affection. My mothers tender care of me maie be more kind then commodous, for though I will not liue but to bee in all humblenes her childe, yet must I haue a care for my countries god not to be a babie to my selfe: for to reade of the noble aduentures of diverse honourable spirts, what perilles they passed, what conquests they made, how they enriched their countries, enlarged their kingdomes, aduanced their followers, increased their titles, and lest same to their houses; shall I as one dull of witte not to vnderstende what I reede, or fearefull of spirit to followe the pathes of their pastages, not like your soane lie still at home, and blowe at a banquet, dance in a chamber, or tumble in a bed, where either sleepe maie dull my sences, musike maie droouie my sprite, or surfeiting maie kill my stomacke: farre be it from your son to shew so little of his fathers nature, for dangers, they are the trialls of the valiant, for aduentures they are the honor of the resolute, and for labours, they are the praises of the patient, and where are these at home? No, by trauaile is gotten knowledge, and to answe to some points of your p;opositions: Indeede

the same sunne shineth in one place that shineth in another, but not at one and the same time ; men and women are of the same proportion, but not of the same disposition, which is a note of great regard; the diet, apparel, demeanour, and inclination of euerie countrey is to be obserued, and the obseruations well taken maie fall out to be commodious, so I haue heard you say, my selfe haue read, and verely beleue by traualle I shall learn who are our friendes or foes, and so either to esteeme them or beware of them : My friendes that you maie spare will followe me in my course, or aliowe of my content, my servantes will attēnd the issue of my fortune, and my countrey I hope shall be benefited by my traualle. I intend no long voyage, nor ante at all without your liking, but if with your leave I might haue my desire, I must confesse I would willinglie a little set fote abroad into the wo:ld, and for that there are, as I am certainlie informed, a great number of gallant young gentlemen, Chor-lie intending to attēnd the Emperour in his warres against the Turke, wherein, who performeth the true parts of valour, shall returne with the badge of deserved honour, I humbly beseech you, with as little charge as it shall please you, to furnish me to this piece of service, from whence I am assuredly perswaded, I shall never returne with discortement. Now having revealed unto your maiestie both the nature of my inclination, the grounde from whence it grew, and the reasons that haue thereto induced me, I leauē to your fatherly loue to consider of my dutie, and your discrete consideration, to thinke of my stay or traualle.

The god old Duke, finding that the colte of a courser woul'd hardly be brought to the harrow, a lapwing would runne as sone as it was out of the shell, & a bird of his own fether would take after his owne flight, though it could not but grieue him, to haue him set out of his sight, yet knowing the quarrell god that he went to fight in, with the Emperour against the Turk, and that manie princes had sent their sonnes to gaine honor in that piece of service, after a few wo:ds of some unwillingnesse to want the comfort of his presence, w:ch is not only contented to like well of his desire, but promised, with his blessing to furnish him

him so; his booke: And so, leaing him with his father the Duke, going into his pallace to perswade the Duchesse patience to his departure; I will returne to the Duke Ordillo of the Ilandes of Corali, of whom when I haue tolde you what hap-pened of his son Fantiro, I will returne againe unto the Duke Firento, and the young Prince.

But touching the Duke Ordillo, you shall understand, that one daie in the heate of sommer intending to take his pleasure in a forrest neare vnto the sea side, and hauing a stately redde deer so long in chase, as had almost spent all his whyle crie of houndes, wearie with following the crie, and knowing that the young Prince his sonne was of so strong a bodie, though but a childe in years, that he would bring him the newes of the death of the Deer, with a soft pace breaching his horse, with a prettie traine of his attendantes, retired himselfe to his pallace in a parke neare unto the forrest, where I will leaue him for a while expecting the returne of his sonne, and I will tell you what became of the fruit of his expectation.

The young Prince sole heire male vnto his father, and so lit-tle beloued by his uncle brother to the Duke, no one of his p-
uite Counsall, that to advance his owne childdren, he cared not what became of his brothers sonne, was by a villaine that hee had hired for the purpose, trained aside from the chase, some-
what neare vnto the sea, where hauing him alone, farre enough
from companie, either to heare what hee said, or to see what hee
did, drewe out his sword, and with a terrible countenance fra-
med for the purpose, after he had made him to light downe from
his horse, vsed this speach vnto him: Howe now young master?
You dined well, but you had no god lanche to your meate, but I
must make you such a dish of lanche to your supper, tht all the
cookes in your fathers Court never sawe the like: So to make
short wo:ke with you, I must see what bloud is about your hart,
and I must sende it to your uncle to his venison: nowe, if you
can come and beare him compaines, you shall tell me if it be not
worsh the taſting.

The young Prince Fantiro, hauing in his heart no little spark
of his fathers sprite, seeming nothing at all dismayed at his

threates, nor as it were, making ante fearefull account of death, throwing off his cloake, and unbuttoning his doublet, with a sterne countenance, made him this answeare : Thou saucie rascall, what art thou ? a man ? a dogge ? or a devill ? that daresst to thinke so villanous a thought, or to utter so impious a speech, as to murther the innocent, or to lade a vio'lent hand vpon the least haire of my head ? am not I sonne to thy master ? and master to thy selfe ? did I ever hurt thee ? Marke, haue I not been too bountifull in my godd will, vnto so vngratefull a villaine ? Looke about thee, seest thou not a God in the heauens ? and knowest thou not there is a devill in hell ? that vpon the instant of thy villanie, standes not readie to receive thee ? Oh worst of all creatures, how canst thou looke towards the heauens ? and dost not hang downe thy head, to think of the villany of thy hart ? Looke thou wretched slauie, my brest is open for thee, thinke I feare not death, for I knowe I shall not liue one minute past the houre that is appointed me ; wherfore doe thy worst : and for mine visicle, God forgive him the vnaturall villaine that hee hath shewed in this action.

The intended murtherer, not a little amazed at the spirit of so young a bodie, unwilling to returne to the Court without performance of his promise, as well for the want of his promised rewarde, as for feare of his displeasure that had set him to worke, and yet loath to embreue his handes in the bloud of so sweete a creature, replied vnto him with these wordes : My Lorde, the Lorde of lordes knowest holw loath I am, to fall into the lapse of the diuell by this hellish action ; and therfore as wel to sauе your life from the murtherous malice of your uncle who will never leauue by all devises to sake your bloud, as to sauue mine owne assynd to be lost, if I returne without his contentment : I beseech you gloue eare to what I say, and I hope it shall be for both our god . In the next hauen neare adioyning, lieth a shipp ready to put to sea towardes the citie of Dolno , in the Ilandes of Balino , the Merchant that hath fraught and victuald her is one Mario Duronte , a friend of mine, to whom I will put you as my sonne, entreating him to carrie you shither, and there to leauue you either with some Courtier or Merchant that he

he is acquainted with so somme forme of yeres, so that I would have you to learne the languages; Now therre, if your fortune be to doe well, I shall be glad of it, if other wise, wo bee to me, though unwillinglie to be the autho: of it.

This speech though it were no little griefe to him to leau his fathrs Court, and to abandon his countrey in so pore a sort, and vpon so hard a fortune, yet willing of all ills to chuse the least, was contented rather to accept this little kindnesse, to be put seruant to an unfit master, then to trust anie longer to the courtesie of so wicked a creature; & therfore with great thankes, assuring him that God would regarde his pittie, and that himselfe would never forget his honestie, giuing him a purse of golde that hee had about him, keeping verie fewe crownes for himselfe, tooke his waie toward the hauen, and by the way mee-
ting with none that knewe him, passed vndescryed vnto the shipp, where being aboord, and entertained into seruice with Signor Mario, they put to sea, the tide seruynge stille for their pur-
pose, leaving the villaine to returne to his wicked master with the newes of his Nephew, whome I will leau at the Court, telling him in secret a devised lie of the drowning of the young Prince, and I will tell you what became of him, and his for-
tune.

The wylde serving well to their wished shore, it was not long till Mario Doronte arrived, at the cittie of Dolno, wher he had not lien many daies, but having occasion to go to the court, tooke with him his young servant Rantiso, so was the young Prince nowe miscalled by the villaine that had intended his death: Now being come to the Court, and there well entertained by some not of the meanest sort, with whom he had to deale with in his busynesse, crossing the Court, therre happened a Noble man of the Dukes chamber, to cast his eie vpon this young Prince, the Merchantes imagined prentise, whome calling to him, after a fewe wordes had with him, affecting verie much both his person and spirit, made such meanes to the Merchant, that for a small summe of crownes, with promise of a greater friendship, he obtained him at his handes, and entertaining for his page, and finding in him such fine qualities, as did much

deserue the encrease of his god liking of him, he helde him in such account, as was not commonlie scene nor by him expected, vpon so little knowledge: But the Merchant after the dispatch of his busynesse returned to his country, and the young Prince now a page caried his service with such care, as was not a little regarded in the Court, nor unrewarded of his master; who in few yeares, having perceaved his forwardnesse in many god qualities, by maintaining his desires in all god instructions, with true commendations of his worthinesse, preferred him to the Duke his master, who in a little time, tooke so due a regard of his seruice, that to the viewe of his whole Court, hee made shew of his exceeding fauour. But I will leauue him for a while in the beginning of his fortune, in the Court of his fathers enemy unknowne to him, and himselfe unknowne to the Duke what he was, and I will returne to Pinello, the young Prince, sonne to Feronte.

The Duke of Dolno in the Ilandes of Balino, who haing obtained leave of his parents for his voyage into the Emperors Court, and so to attende him in his warres against the Turke, had no sooner set foote aboord, but a sudden forme tooke him scarce out of sight of Inde, and draue him, for sauegard of his life, and all that were with him, to put in at a haven within the Ilandes of Corash; where the Duke Ordillo his fathers enemy was chiefe governour: who though he were in his debt for a summe of mony lent vnto his father, and therfore by lacke of paymēt had purchased his displeasure, yet hauing heard of his sonnes arriuall, sent to entertaine him in such god sort, as befitted the honour of his person, who being mett in great solemnitie, by diuers of his Lordes, was after he had beeне feasted by the Gouvernours of his chiefe cittie, with a great troupe of Nobles attended vnto the Court of the Duke, of whome hee quicklie receiued such an vnexpected welcome, as in the roialty of his spirit, would haue remitted both all debt and displeasure: not to stande too long vpon needlessle discourses, let it suffice that the Dukes kindnesse, the Nobles attendance, the Ladys sweete fauours, and the welcome of the whole Court, was such, as made him manie daies longer then he determined, to make aboad

aboade in shat countrey: but aboue all, the grations kinde countenance of the Dukes onely daughter, not a little affected by this gallant young Prince, was not the least cause of his state, of whom since a great part of my storie dependeth, I will tell you, what I reade sell out besynt them.

This young Princesse the onlie daughter of Ordillo, not a littile affecting the outward person, & inward vertue of this young Prince, who was nothing behinde with her in great contentment with her much worthines of his god liking, toke occasion one morning, seeing him walking out of his lodging into a garden, right against her chamber windowe to take a private wate through a gallerie downe into the same garden, where in a close walke neere vnto the greene alley where the Prince was walking unsee ne of him a prettie while, fell into this talke with a gentlewoman an attendant of hers, whom she held in great account, and to whom she revealed the secret of all her hart: Oh Delina quoth she (for so was her name) little doest thou know the cause of my late melancholie, but I dare trust thee with my life, and for that I kno'w thou hast past through the Labyrinth, that I am nowe in, I will hope the better of thy advise so; my comfort: Since the comming of the Prince Penillo, into my fathers Court, thou hast not seene me hartely merrie, so though I conceale much of my passion, yet will I somwhat ease my hart, with telling thee somwhat of my minde. Some fourte or fiftie daies before the newes came to our court of the arrivall of this worthy Prince, I had a dreame that held me all the time of my sleepe, the most part of a whole night: the remembrance whereof in the morning and ever since, hath troubled mee verie much: whi h as neere as I can remember I will tell the.

We thought I was going throug a thick wood, where were a number of nettes and snares, layde in euerie pathe where I shoulde passe, yet me thought I passed thorough them so easily, as if they had bene of no strenght; till at last I came towardes a great water, where neere vnto the shore laye a great Boate, and from the Boate laye a long line, made all of golde & pearly, within the compasse whereof, treading yer I was awate, me thought some thing gaue a snatche, wherewith the line whipte

about my middle, and caried mee into the Woote, with the sondaine frignt whereof I awaked. Now what saiest thou to this drearie ? Declina, no lesse wifly concerteid of her drearie, then noting the cartage of her humour, made her this answere. Dame if a blind body may catch a Hare, I may happen to come somewhat neere the exposition of this night fantasie. The wood you went in, is the court, the nettes, the eies and tongues of your factors, that had no power to take sure holde of your affection ; now the great water mate be the Sea, and the golden line, the young Prince, that may carry you away from your fathur: for if I be not much deceived, he hath you by the heart, whatsoever it was that helde you by the middle. Unhappie wench, quoth the Princesse, shou rowest so neere, that hittest the marke so right: but yet maiest thou bee deceiu'd in one point, though not in some other; I haue past the nettes, that is true; and I am caught, it is not vnltrue, bnt that he either wil, or shall carie me awaie, that I feare will not fall out: But God knoweth all, to whose onelie will I leave it, as farre may come as neere, soes maie be friends, and loue wher he doth light doth more then all the world besides. His presence maie please the purest eie, and for his wit, I heard my fathur wonder at it, for his bountie, our court speakeith of it, and for his vertue, who doth not see it: but for his loue, happy is shee that shall enide it: for princelie wisdome, with honourable bountie, shewes a diuine spirite in an excellent nature, and of such a temper I hold him, and for such a one I loue him, and will ever honour him, though I never haue hym.

The young Prince hearing this pretty parly betwixt the Ladie of his loue, and her handmaid, with a voise lowde enoughe to be heard of them that were so neere, fell thus to talke to the aire: Oh heauens, who can withstand the force of the fates: was I going to the wars to gaine honor in the field, and am I driven to seeke a peace, by being vanquished in a chamber? Did I go to fight with the great Turke, and am I now afraide of a little Christian? Is this the fruit of a storme at Sea : to come into this kind of calme at lande : Well what shoulde I talke to the trees that haue mee not: or to the birdes that vnderstande me

me n^o: or to the astre that helpes mee not? Oh Bilanta, blessed
werde thou borne, if thy beautie haue beene the beginning of
my happiness; and happie, if thy vertue ioyne issue with my af-
fection: for though our parentes be at iarre, we mate be at one,
and what anger in them cannot yeld vnto, loue mate effect in
vs, an ende of heartburning in our parentes, and a beginning
of quiet in our countries. But howe shall I hope of thy loue?
my fathers displeasure mate breed a doubt of my loue; besides
she mate be affected otherwise then I know: whereat the young
Princesse in her close walk replied no. What quothe the young
Prince, is there here such an echo? The Ladie againe replied,
oh. The young Prince amazed at this echo, went on with this
speach: Oh that I knew Bilanta indeede would regard my loue;
she answeared loue: Loue quothe the Prince, but whome doeth
she incane? I wold I knewe his name; she answeared name:
name quothe the Prince, but who mate it be? If it be one onelie,
shee answeared onelie: Onelie quothe hee, onelie happie in
deede, would so were Pinello; She made answere Pinello: With
that the Prince putting the wordes of the echo together, made
vp this speach: Oh loue, name onelie Pinello. And musing a lit-
tle upon his conceit of this sound, looking aside, espied the young
princesse, with her attendant walking out of the Arbour into
the Garden, whome meeting with, at the ende of a crosse alleay,
he saluted with this greeting.

Sweete Princesse, when there bee two Sunnes shyning at one
instant, it cannot be but faire weather: one in the skie, and an
other on the earth, both which meete so sweetelie in this blessed
piece of ground, that let him die in his bed, that will not walke
in such a morning. The Lady not fully perswaded of his affectio,
for al h^s playing with echo, and yet hoping wel of his wo^sds,
till his deedes sell out otherwise, with a modest smile made him
this answeare. My Lord, if your speaches were not so high in
the cloudes, that pore soules on the earth kno^w not howe to gesse
of your meaning, I shouide bee the better able to straine an an-
sweare to your salutation; but howsoever the sun shone in the
beauens, the shadowe of your imagination, if it were a substance
of that worth, that might answeare a far lesse figure, then your
faavour,

faour, would be loath that anie solewe weather shoulde hinder
 the happines of your faire walke : but I perceue such mor-
 ning Astronomers can plaine prettilie with their owne humors.
 Prettie Lady (quoth the Prince) the best plate that I know, is at,
 be you please, where hee that lightes vpon a god carde were
 vnwise if he woldre change : the princesse rousing unhappilie at
 his conceit replied agayne, and yet my Lord, to be afraid of god
 fortune, is sometime cause of much losse: yea Madame answe-
 red the Prince, but fortune is so fantastical, that there is no
 trust to be had in her; and therfore I hold my opinion; rather
 to keepe a god chiose, then to aduenture a bad change. I am no
 gamster answered the Princesse, and therfore can speake but i-
 dle of the sport, but they that are please are happy, and they
 will not hold themselves so, are vnwise. The Prince playing
 vpon this word please, went so warde with this speech: God
 Madam, mate it then please you to be please, with the service
 of my affection? which no further then deſart, will ſeeke the ho-
 nour of your fauour. The Ladie with a modell ſmile ſomewhat
 concealing her content, gaue him this anſwere. My god Lord,
 I am glad it pleaueth your greatnede to be ſo merry with your
 poore friends: but ſuch ſervice, as your fauour, muſt be graced
 with greater honour then my unworſhinenſe can accoupliſh.

The Prince not a little contented with her ſpeech, replied a-
 gain in these words: Madam, to make a long haruest about a
 little corne, were but a weake piece of husbandrie; and therfore
 not to hold you with a tedious diſcourse in plaine tearmes, you
 are the card that I meane, my plaine is no ieff, your loue is the
 ſtakē, that I would be glad if I could to win, you are the chioſe,
 that I haue made, and that I would bee loath to change: and
 therfore if a ſouldiers eloquence, mate haue fauour in your au-
 dience, let thy heart and hand in your honour ſpeakē for my de-
 ſart in your affection. The Ladie not able to couer the ſire, that
 was now paſſe kindling, brake ſodainlie into this anſwere. My
 Lord, to reape the corne ere it be ripe, mate proue more haſte
 then god ſpedde, and yet to let it grow till it ſhedde, were great
 losſe to the farmer; and therfore the taking of time is proouable
 to the preſident, I will not teach your honour what to doe, but
 if

If my loue be the prize of your pleasure, you cannot lose the hope of your patience, assuring my selfe, that the reach of your conceit, exceedeth not the roialtie of your spirit; which in the regard of vertue deserueth nothing but honour: and for that the heart of a soldier, is free from the tongue of a dissembler. I will rather believe the truth of valour, then give eare to the falsehood of a weaker spirit: But for that manie crosses fortunes, may hinder the happinesse of the most honorable resolutions, let me intreat your patience to make triall of my constancie, as you make my vnwchiness, mistresse of my contentment.

The Prince nothing disliking this good motion in her good minde, kissing her hande, made this kinde conclusion: Faire Princesse, the discretion of your good motion, I exceedingly like of; for your credit to my truthe, I cannot but thanke you, for the honour wherewith you ensigne me, I returne it fully vpon you, for the nature of my loue, let your vertue discerne it, and for the faith of my affection, I vow you shall command it: but as you know I haue resolutely intended to attende the Emperour in his warres against the Turke, where if I gaine honor, the garland shall bee graced in your wearing; if I die, let it suffice thy selfe to knowe the honour of my loue, with whome howsoeuer be my fortune, I vow to leauue the faith of my affection: and so, thinking to procede in their further conference, spying certaine Ladies, and Gentlewomen with their friends and attendants comming into the garden, they singled themselves one from another, hee retiring himselfe to his lodging, and she to her close arbour, where I leave them for a while to meditate vpon their muses, and I will returne vnto Fantiro late Page vnto the Duke Feronte.

Fantiro sonne to the Duke Ordillo, preferred by the Merchant before spoken of, vnto one of the Duke Ferontes Courte, and after by his Lord and master vnto the Duke himselfe, having so well caried himselfe in his seruice, that he was not onlie beloued of the Duke his now Lorde and master, but of all his whole Court, and especiallie of Semilla the onelie daughter of the Prince, of whom he had often receiuued such secret tokens

of honorably fanchurz, as except he wold hyshe both his eyes, he must nedes perceiue some part of her affection: But among al, this was not the least, that one daie among other, in the afternoone, the Duke being disposed to haue some musick, and dancing in the presence, falling out in a daunce, that every knyght w^ts to take his Ladie, and enerle Ladie her servant, on whom she would bestow her fauour; in the presence of her father the Duke she tooke Fantiro by the hand and accompanied him in the measure, till the dauncing was wholie ended. Which was noted of manie, especially of one, who hauing more wealth then honour, thought to buy loue with drosse, which is fanchured dogge, unworthie to bee called a man, yet attended with farre better then himselfe, seeking in what bee might to disgrace this unknowne Prince, came one daie by chance into a gallerie neare adioyning to the presence, where he found the yong Princesse walking all alone, and vpon the sedaine standing as it were in a muse, looking vpon a picture of an Ape playing with an Dre, where smiling to her selfe which was the best shaped creature, shee sawe comming towardes her the onelie hobby horse of a man, that euer disgraced a coate of veluet: whome, rather for the fauour that he helde with her father, then for anie affection, that she had reason to carrie him, she for ill fashions sake thus saluted Signor Spero, for so was hee called (whether christened or no, I know not) God givē you god morrow: The slouch of a slyuen with a flauering smile, vpon a flubbered conceit, after manie good roves began to trouble her with this tattle. Truly Madame, I am glad it was my god happe, to mēete so conuenientlie with your Ladishippe, as well for the honour that I wish you, as for the seruice I would be glad to doe you: for though a Quince bee a tree of no straighnesse, yet it beareth a faire and widdlefome fruit, the fallis to ground is rough, yet it beareth the best come, and the Dre hath but an ihyue, yet is there pure golde to be had in it; so mate it bee that in the you mate finde some cause of discontentment, till you haue made triall of more then I will protest: but emploie me in your seruice, consider of my desart, and doe me justice in your fauour: Let your fathers loue be an ingression into my Grace, and the endeavour

endeuour of my dute, the encrease of my god fortune: The sunnes beautie is commended for shining as well vpon the val-
leys as the mountaines, þ sea is beloued as well for a Pinnis
as a proud ship, and is not the pearle in a shell, moze worth then
the oyle of a Whale? then thinke it not vnpossible, to find that
spirit in me that you maie perhaps finde in a faire faced crea-
ture: a Diamonde is the bighter so; his foile, a faire horse, is
the more beautifull, by the desormie of a sowle lade, and how
can you bee better graced. then in fawouring the disgracions:
for my loue, I will compare it with anie living; and for my
service I wold it could expresse my loving. God Madam par-
don my boldnesse in acquainting you with my suit, whch hath
no life but in the onely fruit of your god fawour.

The Ladie so little liking the outward dogge, that shee had
no patience to thinke of the inward Devil; little studying so
an answere, brake of a sodaine into this speach: Sir, for your
kindenesse I thanke you, but for your paines I wold be loath
to trouble you: for though your eloquence be great, yet all is
but a sound, and when the stringes are once slipt, the lute is but
a piece of wood: the Diamond is to be loued so; his fire, not his
foile, a comelie horse with a lade, will make an illfavoured con-
fession, quid to grace the vngracions, is against the haire of a
god wit. My fathers loue, and my liking maie differ vpon cau-
ses, and your service and my command not meete in anie occa-
sion of emploiment: for the sunne shining on the valleys, it is
a blessing of the heauens; and for the Pinnis sayling thorough
the seas, it is by the bearing nature of the water, but for the
pearle in the shell, Indeede I must confesse it is farre better out
of it, then in it; and to conclude, for the inward sharpe[n]esse
of your witte, if it were not in so grosse a person, I could per-
haps take patience with my fawour, to make some emploiment
of your service: but for that I would not feede you with vaine
hopes, to hang upon the skirtes of my faire spæches, let this
suffise you not to abuse you, that I could bee content often to
heare you, but never to see you. Whereat the wicked wretch,
like a galde horse kicking at the noise of a currie-combe, fret-
ting at his owne desormie, where a squinte eie, a halfe nose,

and a wry mouth had no grace, in a great rage, snuffing at his cold entertainment; went awate with these wordes: Well, if you like not that you see; you mate pull out your eyes, and softlie muttering to himselfe, I will mate with you ere you be aware, and crosse you in your most comfort, meaning with Fantiro her loue, now in that Court called Rantiso.

But I will leue the wrych to his wicked inuentions, going from the Ladie to the Duke her father, and I will tell you a fewe wordes of the Lady and her louer, whose god hap it was presentlie after the departure of this sweete Gentleman, to come into the gallerie where his Ladie and misris was verie solemnlie walking, but fearing that he had offended her fauour with pressung into her presence, begā to retire himselfe towards the doore, as not willing further to mooue her patience; which the Ladie espyng, and willing a litle to enbolden his dutie in her fauour, called him unto her with these wordes: My good seruant, what meanes this too much god manner? or shall I call it strangenesse? or found you them not here that you looked for? or are you displeased with them that you see? Truly I will not hurt you, and to put you in further comfort, if you haue any suit to my father, or affection to any friend of mine, assure your selfe I will not hinder you, though how much I will further you I will not tell you.

The young Gentleman, in this Court unknowone what hee was, and therefore carrying no greater title, nor a little glad of this kinde greeting, made her this humble answere: My gratiouse Ladie and misris, I feared nothing but your displeasure, nor sole in anie thing vnder the heauens but your fauour: my suit to your father, is but his emploiment of my seruice, and for my affection to your friendes, it shall be wholie in the honour of your vertue: Now therefore I humblie beseech you pardon but my truthe, and regard my triall, which shall make me nothing my selfe more then I shall be happie in your seruice. Oh seruant (qd. the Princesse) I see you study not for nothing, I beleue you read Ouid, you would seeme to make such a Metamorphosis of your selfe, of late a soldier altogether in the field, & now a louerall to courting in a chamber. Rantiso not unprovided

of an answere replied in this manner : Good Madam, my affection is no fiction, whatsoever it mate please you to thinke of my studie, but when the honour of a soldier is the fauour of his mistris, give me leaue to serue your father in the field, and honour you in the Court : and though the meanenesse of my estate make the vnworthinesse of my fortune, yet thinke a starre in his right place, mate hap to procure to be a planet.

The Princesse of the Sodaine began thus to replie, for starres and planets, I leaue the proprietie of their places, to the studie of Astronomers; but if your minde be heavenlie, the highest prosper your humor : and, as she was going onwards with her speech, vpon the Sodaine she espied certaine Ladies comming in to entreat her companie into the garden, where with leauing her prayer to her seruants Amen, with a favourable glaunce she left hym to his muses, & with the Ladies that came to her, went downe into the garden ; where I will leaue her in the pleasant walkes to take the benefit of the sweete aire, and I will tell you, what did follow of Fantiro, and his fortune.

Fantiro now called Rantiro, no sooner had left his mistris, but with a concealed toy gat him presently to the Dukes chamber, where taking his place of attendance, espied comming from the Duke, Signor Spero the sweete gentleman that I before spake of, who comming by Rantiro, with a flering laughter, as one that had plaid the Jew with him behind his back, gane him a wry mouth good morrow; which he taking verie kindly, not yet knowing his cunning practise, returned him very humbly : but after his departure finding the Dukes countenance, as it seemed to him vpon the Sodaine somewhat altered, from his former kind of kindnesse, began to suspect, that Jacke an apes was not without his trickes, and that his being with the Duke had done him no god ; as hee did shottlie after perceiue : for within few daises after, it was his happe lying vnder a pale of the parke neare vnto the pallace, where the Duke with this wicked horseleach was walking, to heare the talke that passed betwixt him and the Duke, which was as followeth.

My gratiuous Lord (quoth this ungratiuous labber) the many fauours wherewith your highnes hath bound me unto you, in al

the seruice that I can deuise to doo you, will not suffer me to conceale the least cause that I knowe mē bē an occasion of your discontent, and in what I can humblē to advise your fauour in the preventing of al that may endanger the iust weight of your displeasure. The Duke better acquainted with his wit then his conscience, minding to make vse of the one, what soever he shoulde finde of the other, replied vnto him with these wordes. God Sperto, thy carefull regard of my content, I cannot but kindlie thinke of; and thy prouidence in preventing all occasion of my dislike, I will not let passe unrewarded: and therefore I prate thee plainelie deliuer mee thy minde in euerie pointe of thy meaning.

Signor Sperto, having stadded vpon purpose, to plaine the vilaine in his kind; began thus to vter his venom. My gratiōnous Lord, so that you shall see how indifferently I will deale, in givning reason his due; as I woulde bee no aduancer of pride, so woulde I not be anie backe friende to the honour of vertue; in the skie you see there is but one Moone, which bath her light from the Sun: now on this Moone attendes a number of Starres, but if anie one shoulde presume pass his place to step within the circle of the Moone, thinke you not the higher powers woulde not thrust hym quite out of the heauens? I am no Astronomer (quoth the Duke) but I thinke it were sic it shoulde be so: but I prate thee trouble me not with figures, while I woulde haue thee moze plainelie tell thy mind. Then answeared Signor Sperto, maie it please your grace, by the skie, I meane your court, the Moone your daughter, and the Sunne your selfe, from whome and the Almighty, she taketh all the vertue of her hono: Now if any attendant in your courte shoulde presume farther then your pleasure, to p̄esse into the fauour of her affection, were he not wō:shle to be banished your court? Yes, and shall (quoth the Duke) what soever he be without exception: Then my gratiōnous Lord, said Sperto, you know, you haue long favoured, and by your fauour advanced Rantiso, a stranger in your countrie, and such a one as though I must confesse by his much worthe manie waies, deserueth no little honour: yet if for your fauour sufflie extended vnto him, he will presume to wrong your kindest,

nes, in aiming at your Crokone, or robbing you of your chiese
comfort, I leane to your wisedome to ludge of his reward.

The Duke marking welluerie part of his speech, and with-
all calling to minde the open shewe of her fauour in taking out
of Rantiso from all the compante, both of friendes and stran-
gers, to leade her in the measure of her dance, thinking well
both vpon the man and the matter, made him this answere.
Signor Spero, I see well thy watchfull care of my comforste, and
do suspect no lesse then perhaps thou dost better perceiue, but to
preuent all mishappe, and give no cause of offence; let vs ad-
uise what is to be done. The man hath serued faithfullie, and in
manie godsetuices hath deserued honourable, our friendes in
a manner all do loue him, I heare almost no man speake ill
of him, and if our daughter affect him, shall we therefore hate
him? God forbiode, vertue will haue honour in despight of for-
tune, and loue hath caused princes to fauour verie pore people,
I speake not this either to pardon his presumption, or to fauour
his proceeding, for I will denise in what I can, to remoue him
farre enough from my daughter, howsoever my selfe shall re-
gard him. But let me haue thy advise how so to worke it, that
he mate rather be glad of our countenance, then mistrust our
discontentment.

Signor Spero, fearing to be thought malicious, and yet not
able to couer the vallanie of his humor, made this answere to
the Duke. Maie it please your hignesse, to consider of what
mate fall out in the euent of this fortune, if it were not foreseen.
If your daughter shoulde to disgrace your whole Court, as to
cast her affection vpon a stranger, and leauing to looke vpon
manie noble personages, shoulde fall in liking with I knowe
not whome, nor of how mane a parentage; it cannot bee but a
discomfort to your heart, so to see your iewell, that you hould of
the highest price in your Crokone, to be set in so base golde, as
mate perhaps poure but copper: and if it bee as pure as the pu-
rest, that he shoulde prove honourable in birth, wise in conceite,
valiant in armes, vertuous in disposition, and every way wor-
thy of as much honour, as the greatest of your fauour coulde a-
fearde him; yet what a heartburning woulde it brede in your
countrie,

country, that a stranger shoulde haue the honour of your court, and carie awaie the garland of your Duke-dome: yea, and then not only all the actions of your noblesse pères would lie as dead, or not spoken of, while the Trumpe of fame would sound onlie the honour of his fortune; and so in processe of time, not onelie your Count and countesse woulde bee disgraced and agriued, but your highnesse shoulde see a great fall of your owne fame, when by the fresh memorie of his fortune, all former honoures woulde be forgotten; but to prevent all misfortune.

Stay there a little (quoth the Duke) and let me tell thee a little of my minde: my daughter, is but a part of my selfe, that is now from my selfe; in affecting the vertuous, I must commend her disposition, and in fauouring the honorable, I cannot mislike her discretion; and that he is honoured by me, hee maie the better be graced by her: Now, if a stranger deserue well, it maie give an example to our Court, and to barre him his right, is a blot in courtesie: shee maie like though not loue, and hee serue though fer no such reward. Moreover, what he is we know not, and therfore let vs thinke the best, and such maie be his worth, as maie be worshipe our regard. Fame is not partiall in sounding the honour of deserts; and therfore who runneth best, let him winne the Bell, and weare the Garland: hee hath little grace in himselfe, that feareth the fortune of another, and the fresh memorie of one action bringeth in the honour of another: and for my selfe, while I live, I will keepe my sword, when I am gone let my sonne keepe my scepter. For Rantis, I finde so much good in him, that I cannot but loue him; and yet not so well, but to prefer my daughter to a better fortune, and to content such of my Court as maie be agriued at him, let me heare thy advise so; the remoue of him both from our Court, and countrey.

Signor Sperto biting the lippe at thys speeches, and yet glad to heare this conclusion, made the Duke this answere: Daic it please your Maiessy to think of Yembassage you meane to send to the Duke of the Islands of Corasi, touching the sum of mony, that hee hath long detayned from you, and the disgracions answere that he latele sent you: This Gentleman your Grace knowelth

knoweth to be well read in the languages, of a stout spirit, that will not feare to deliver your message, and one that will be glad to receive such honour at your handes: Nowe if it mate please your highnesse, his returne mate be at your pleasure, whiche not effecting your expection, mate haue fauours at your pleasure. The Duke Ordillo, you know is a man of a stout courage, and when two such spirites mete, God knoweth what will fall out; which if it be otherwise then well with him, your Maiestie mate at your pleasure revenge: In the meane time, that your Courte nor countrey mate take exceptions, at your either disgracing his good deserving, nor disfauouring his worthie vertues, that your daughter mate not suspect the least looking into her affection, nor Rantivo imagine his service in anie such nature suspected, but in being so graced mate holde himselfe wel pleased. I thinke your Highnesse shall not doe amisse in this devise.

Signor Spero (quoth the Duke) I will not scatter thy witt, though I will loue thy counsaile, and follow thy advise, which shall be knowne onlie to our selues: To morrow we will grace him in all we can, both in worde and countenance, so that hee shall mistrust nothing of our meaning, and forthwith we will richlie furnish him forth in this embassage: and so Signor Spero I will biode thee farewel, I will say a while be priuat heere in mine Arbour, I prae thee glue commandement to the Porter, that no man come to trouble me, till I returne into my chamber. With which command, Signor Spero taking his leauie left the Duke alone in a close walke, vsing these few wordes to hym selfe: Oh the miserie of time, what doth this wicked world bring forth? nothing but sinne and iniquitie: vertue more pittied then beloued, honour more envied then accompanied, valour more commanded then rewarded, and charitie more banished then embrased: Strangers shoulde be relieved, vertue honored, honor increased, valour advanced, and charitie beloued, but that godly world is done, strangers are either feared, or hated, vertue scorched, honor disgraced, valour unrewarded, and charitie vnscorne. Princes cannot be themselves, for the greatest powers haue not the greatest peace, a Gnat will trouble a Lyon, a Louse an

Eagle, a Mousse an Elefant, a Taintwo me a Bull, and a canker a man, Aesops frogge wold be as big as the Dre although he burst for her labour, Envie is a worme of the spirit that spits all her venome against vertue. Oh Sperto, though the advise of thy devise I will follo'w, for the quiet of my Court, yet must I needes saie I finde thy malice against Rantiso, what the reason is I knowe not, but that an Dyle hath no grace with an Eagle; I know my daughter cannot affect thee howsoever she fauour him, but wold to God my sonne were at home: And with that word vsing no more speach rose vp from the seate, & retired himselfe into his pallace, where I will leue him to determine of his embassage, and Rantiso to thinke of the subtilitie of his close enemy; and I will returne againe to Penillo, sonne to the Duke Feronte, whome I left in the Courte of Ordillo his fathers enemy, falle by the heart in loue with his daughter the young Princesse Bilanta.

Penillo the young Prince sonne to Feronte the Duke of Ballino, after a few daies of roiall entertainment in the Court of Ordillo, with much contentment in the honourable secret kindnesse of his loue the Princesse Merilla, receiving a fauour of her whiche he sware to weare in his Burgonet, when he was in the field against the enemy, leaning with her a heart of golde, set full of Diamondes, tooke his tourney towards the Emperours Court, and so with him towardes his waers against the Turke, where in the face of the whole Armie, he wonne such hono: by his valour, that the Emperour to shew his loue unto him, embraced him in his armes, calling him son, and wishing that he were so happy as to haue a daughter worshie such a Prince. Well to be shoit, such a so honorable was his carriage with the Emperour, as wel in his warre, as his Court, that with his valour he wonne the loue of the Emperour, and with his kindnesse, the god will of all his followers; in the predicament of which happinessse, after his roiall entertainment as well in the Court as all other places of the Emperours territorites, haung received from the Emperour two rich iewels, the one a iewell of great value, whiche the Emperour himselfe tooke out of his owne hatte; the other a sword, the hiltcs of whiche were of golde

golde set with pearls, diamondes, and rubies, lately taken from
the chiefe Walla in that seruice, with all humble thankfulnesse
ooke his loue, making homewards with all the speed he could;
and yet not so much, but that he would take the Court of Ordillo
in his wate, where vnto his misris he woulde first recount the
honorable issue of his fortune, who sweete soule as one langur-
shing for the lacke of her new loue did in his absence spende the
most part of her time in pialer for his prosperitie. But I will
leauue further to tell of their fortunes for a while, and I will re-
turne to Rantiso, now called Rantiso, in the Court of Feroune the
Duke of the Ilandes of Balino.

The Duke having set downe his determination for the sen-
ding awaie of Rantiso in his embassage, according vnto the ad-
vise of Signor Sperto, walking one daie into his garden, cer-
taine of his Counsaile sitting with him, among whom Signor
Sperto coulde not be spared, caused Rantiso to bee called before
him, to whom with a pleased seeming countenance, he bitered
this speech; Rantiso, the loue that I haue long borne thee, the faith
that I find in thy seruice, and the much god, that I mane waies
note in thee, haue made me desirous to aduance thee to that ho-
nour, that I know thou wilst deserue. I am determined to send
to my unkinde neighbour Ordillo, the Duke of the Ilandes of
Cotasi, he hath beeke long in my debt, and I thinke meanes to
laugh me out with my money: a million of crowns will main-
taine a prettie Armie, for a sodaine piece of seruice: and since he
pleades not pouertie, but maketh belates the excuse of his ill
dealing, I will sende thee to him, with this resolution, either to
receive my money, or to let him know my mind which in brefe
shall be this, that I will fetch it perforce, or set fire of his pal-
lace: nowe though thou art a stranger in our Court, yet being
beloued of our selues, if thou wilst take it vpon thee, let vs see
who dare scowne at our fauour.

Rantiso having heard lying vnder a pale, the devise of this
plot in the parke, before the Duke and Signor Sperto, seeming
not to know any thing thereof, and fearing the Dukes displea-
sure, if he shoulde refuse it, made him this humble answeare: My
Exaltious Lord, though out of your owne honore, procede so

the seruice that I can devise to doo you, will not suffer me to conceale the least cause that I knowe make bee an occasion of your discontent, and in what I can humble to advise poor sa-
uer in the preventing of al that may endanger the iust weight
of your displeasure. The Duke better acquainted with his wit
then his conscience, minding to make use of the one, what soever
he shoulde finde of the other, replied vnto him with these wordes.
God Sperto, thy carefull regard of my content, I cannot but
kynclie thinke of; and thy prouidence in preventing all occasion
of my dislike, I will not let passe unrewarded: and therfore I
praye thee playnelie deliuer mee thy minde in euerie pointe of
thy meaning.

Signor Sperto, having studid upon purpose, to plaine the vil-
laine in his kind; began thus to vter his venom. My gracious
Lord, for that you shall see how indifferetly I will deale, in
giving reason his due, as I would bee no aduancer of pride, so
woulde I not be anie backe friende to the honour of vertue; in
the skie you see there is but one Moone, which bath her light
from the Sun: now on this Moone attenedes a number of Starres,
but if anie one shoulde presume pass his place to step within the
circle of the Moone, thinke you not the higher powers woulde
not thrust him quylte out of the heauens? I am no Astronomer
(quoth the Duke) but I thinke it were fit it shoulde be so: but I
praye thee trouble me not with figures, whyle I would haue thee
more plainelie tell thy mind. Then answeared Signor Sperto,
maie it please your grace, by the skie, I meane your court, the
Moone your daughter, and the Sunne your selfe, from whome
and the Almighty, she taketh all the vertue of her honor: Now
if any attendant in your course shoulde presume further then
your pleasure, to presse into the fauour of her affection, were he
not worshipe to be banished your court? Yes, and shall (quoth
the Duke) what soever he be without exception: Then my graci-
ous Lord, said Sperto, you know, you haue long fauoured, and
by your fauour aduanced Rantis, a stranger in your countrie,
and such a one as though I must confesse by his much wor-
ship manie waies, deserueth no little honour: yet if so, your fauour
lastlie extended vnto him, he will presume to wrong your kin-
nes,

nes, in aiming at your Crowne, or robbing you of your chiese comfort, I leane to your wisedome to ludge of his reward.

The Duke marking well euerie part of his speech, and withall calling to minde the open shewe of her fauour in taking out of Rantiso from all the compaunie, both of friendes and strangers, to leade her in the measeure of her dance, thinking well both vpon the man and the matter, made him this answeare. Signor Spero, I see well thy watchfull care of my comforste, and do suspect no lesse then perhaps thou dost better perceue, but to prevent all mishappe, and give no cause of offence; let vs advise what is to be done. The man hath serued faithfullie, and in manie god setuiccs hath deserued honourable, our friendes in a manner all do loue him, I heare almost no man speake ill of him, and if our daughter affect him, shall we therefore hate him? God forbiude, vertue will haue honour in despight of forfaine, and loue hath caused princes to fauour verie pore people. I speake not this either to pardon his presumption, or to fauour his proceeding, for I will devise in what I can, to remoue him farre enough from my daughter, howsoever my selfe shall regard him. But let me haue thy advise how so to woorke it, that he maie rather be glad of our countenance, then mistrust our discontentment.

Signor Spero, fearing to be thought malicious, and yet not able to couer the vallanie of his humour, made this answeare to the Duke. Maie it please your highnesse, to consider of what male fall out in the euent of this fortune, if it were not soe seen. If your daughter shoulde so disgrace your whole Court, as to cast her affection vpon a stranger, and leaning to loue vpon manie noble personages, shoulde fall in liking with I knowe not whomme, nor of how meane a parentage; it cannot bee but a discomfort to your heart, so to see your iewell, that you hould of the highest price in your Crowne, to be set in so base golde, as maie perhaps proue but copper: and if it bee as pure as the purrest, that he shoulde proue honourable in birth, wise in conceite, valiant in armes, vertuous in disposition, and every way worthy of as much honour, as the greatest of your favour coulde afforde him; yet what a heartburning woulde it breede in your countreie,

countrye, that a stranger shoulde haue the honour of your counte, and carrie awaie the garland of your Duke-dome: yea, and then not only all the actions of your nobleſſ p̄eres would lie as dead, or not ſpoken of, while the Trumpe of fame would ſound onlie the honour of his fortune; and ſo in proceſſe of time, not onelie your Court and countrye woule bee disgraced and agrieued, but your highneſſe ſhoulde ſee a great fall of your owne fauor, when by the fresh memorie of his fortune, all former honoures woule be forgotten; but to preuent all miſfortune.

Stay there a little (quoth the Duke) and let me tell thee a little of my minde: my daughter, is but a part of my ſelfe, that is now from my ſelfe; in affecting the vertuous, I muſt commend her diſpoſition, and in fauouring the honorable, I cannot miſlike her diſcretion; and that he is honoured by me, hee maie the better be graced by her: Now, if a stranger deſerue well, it maie giue an exaſple to our Court, and to barre him his right, is a blot in courteſie: Thee maie like though not loue, and thee ſerue though for no ſuch reward. Moreouer, what he is we know not, and therfore let vs thinke the beſt, and ſuch maie be his worſh, as maie be worſhie our regard. Fame is not partiall in ſounding the honour of deſerts; and therfore who runneth beſt, let him winne the Bell, and weare the Garland: hee hath little grace in himſelfe, that feareth the fortune of another, and the fresh memorie of one action bringeth in the honour of another: and for my ſelfe, while Aline, I will keepe my ſword, when I am gone let my ſonne keepe my ſcepter. For Rantſo, I finde ſo much god in him, that I cannot but loue him; and yet not ſo well, but to prefer my daughter to a better fortune, and to conſent ſuch of my Court as maie be agrieued at him, let me heare thy aduife for the remoue of him both from our Court, and countrey.

Signor Sperto biting the lippe at theſe ſpeeches, and yet glad to heare this conclusion, made the Duke this anſwerē: Maie it please your Maiesſy to think of þe embaſſage you meane to ſend to the Duke of the Islands of Coraſi, touching the ſum of mony, that hee hath long detained from you, and the diſgratiōns anſwerē that he lateſt ſent you: This Gentleman your Grace knoweth

knoweth to be well read in the languages, of a stout spirit, that will not feare to deliuer your message, and one that will be glad to receiue such honour at your handes: Nowe if it may please your highnesse, his returne maye be at your pleasure, which not effecting your expectation, maye haue fauoure at your pleasure. The Duke Ordillo, you know is a man of a stout courage, and when two such spirites meete, God knoweth what will fall out; which if it be otherwise then well with him, your Maiesies maye at your pleasure reuenge: In the meane time, that your Courte no^r countrey maye take exceptions, at your either disgracing his good deseruing, nor disfauouring his worthie vertues, that your daughter maye not suspect the least looking into her affection, nor Rantiso imagine his service in anie such nature suspected, but in being so graced maye holde himselfe wel pleased, I thinke your Highnesse shall not doe amisse in this devise.

Signor Spero (quoth the Duke) I will not flatter thy witt, though I will loue thy counsaile, and follow thy advise, which shall be knowne onlie to our selues: To morrow we will grace him in all we can, both in worde and countenance, so that hee shall mistrust nothing of our meaning, and forthwith we will richie furnish him forth in this embassage: and so Signor Spero I will bidde thee farewell, I will say a while be privat heere in mine Arbour, I prae the glae commandement to the Porter, that no man come to trouble me, till I returne into my chamber. With which command, Signor Spero taking his leaue left the Duke alone in a close walke, busing these few wordes to hym selfe: Oh the miserie of time, what doth this wicked world bring forth? nothing but sinne and iniquitie: vertue more pittied then beloued, honour more envied then accompanied, valour more commanded then rewarded, and charitie more banished then embrased: Strangers shoud be relieved, vertue honored, honor increased, valour advanced, and charitie beloued, but that god world is done, strangers are either feared, or hated, vertue scorned, honor disgraced, valour vnrewarde, and charitie vnfaunc. Princes cannot be themselves, for the greatest powers haue not the greatest peace, a Gnat will trouble a Lyon, a Louse an Eagle,

Eagle, a Mouse an Elefant, a Caintworne a Bull, and a canker a man, Aslops frogge wold be as big as the Dre although she burst for her labour, Envy is a worme of the spirit that spits all her venome against vertue. Oh Sperto, though the advise of thy deuise I will follow, for the quiet of my Court, yet must I needes saie I finde thy malice against Rantiso, what the reason is I knowe not, but that an Dvile hath no grace with an Eagle; I know my daughter cannot affect thee howsoever she fauour him, but woulde to God my sonne were at home: And with that word vsing no more speach rose vp from the seate, & retired himselfe into his pallace, where I will leaue him to determine of his embassage, and Rantiso to thinke of the subtilitie of his close enemie; and I will returne againe to Penillo, sonne to the Duke Feronte, whome I left in the Courte of Ordillo his fathers enemie, fast by the heart in loue with his daughter the young Princesse Bilanca.

Penillo the young Prince sonne to Feronte the Duke of Ballino, after a few daies of roiall entertainment in the Court of Ordillo, with much contentment in the honourable secret kindnesse of his loue the Princesse Merilla, receiuing a fauour of her whiche he fware to weare in his Burgonet, when he was in the field against the enemis, leaning with her a heart of golde, set full of Diamondes, tooke his tourney towards the Emperours Court, and so with him towardes his wars against the Turke, where in the face of the whole Armie, he wonne such honor by his valour, that the Emperour to shew his loue vnto him, embraced him in his armes, calling him son, and wishing that he were so happy as to haue a daughter worthie such a Prince. Well to be shott, such a so honorable was his carriage with the Emperour, as well in his warre, as his Court, that with his valour he wonne the loue of the Emperour, and with his kindnesse, the gud will of all his followers; in the predicament of which happiness, after his roiall entertainment as well in the Court as all other places of the Emperours territories, haing receiued from the Emperour two rich jewels, the one a teuell of great value, whiche the Emperour himselfe tooke out of his owne hatte; the other a sword, the hiltcs of whiche were of golde

golde sel wylch pearle, diamondes, and rubies, lately taken from
the chiefe Walla in that seruice, with all humble thankfullnesse
ooke his boane, making homewards with all the speed he could,
and yet not so much, but that he would take the Court of Ordillo
in his waie, wher unto his misris he would first recount the
honorable issue of his fortune, who sweete soule as one langui-
shing so, the lacke of her new loue did in his absence spende the
most part of her time in prayer for his prosperitie. But I will
leauue further to tell of their fortunes for a while, and I will re-
turne to Fantiro, now called Rantiso, in the Court of Feroune the
~~Duke of the Ilandes of Balino.~~

The Duke having set downe his determination for the sen-
ding awaie of Rantiso in his embassage, according unto the ad-
vice of Signor Sperto, walking one daie into his garden, cer-
taine of his Counsaile sitting with him, among whom Signor
Sperto could not be spared, caused Rantiso to bee called before
him, to whom with a pleased seeming countenance, he bitered
this speech; Rantiso, the loue that I haue long borne thee, the fau-
th that I find in thy seruice, and the much good, that I mane waies
note in thee, haue made me desirous to aduance thee to that ho-
nor, that I know thou wylst deserue. I am determined to send
to my unkinde neighbour Ordillo, the Duke of the Ilandes of
Corasi, he hath beeene long in my debt, and I thinke meanes to
laugh me out with my money: a million of crowns will main-
taine a prettie Armie, for a sodaine piece of seruice: and since he
pleades not pouertie, but maketh delates the excuse of his ill
dealing, I will sende thee to him, with this resolution, either to
receive my money, or to let him know my mind whch in brieue
shall be this, that I will fetch it perforce, or set fire of his pal-
lace: nowe though thou art a stranger in our Court, yet being
beloued of our selues, if thou wylst take it upon thee, let vs see
who dare crowne at our fauour.

Rantiso having heard lying under a pale, the devise of this
plot in the parke, betwixt the Duke and Signor Sperto, seeming
not to know any thing thereof, and fearing the Dukes displea-
sure, if he shold refuse it, made him this humble answeare: My
Gracious Lord, though out of your owne honoure, procede so

much goodnesse, as to extende so farre your fauour vpon so small desert, as I cannot but blush to confesse; yet let not the honour of your fauour towardes me, be a cause of your Nobles heart-burning against me; for though my studie hath bee ne somewhat in the languages, yet hath my traualle bee ne so little in these courses, as I rather feare to deceiue your expecation, then to discharge the desire of my dutie: yet if it please you to impose this charge vpon me, though it were with the losse of my life, I would thinke it well lated downe in your seruice.

Well (quoth the Duke) let it suffice thee, that my loue vnto thee shall put off all causes of discontentment, that maye be in this seruice; if I fauour thee, which of my Court, that will not befriend thee: and therefore prepare thy selfe for this iourney, for I will make choise of no other: and thus ending his speech rose vp from his seate, and walking into the garden met with his daughter the Princesse Merilla, accompanied with divers Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court, whom saluting very gra-
tiously he passed by them, and taking his daughter by the hand walking aside with her into an open greene walke, fell into this talke with her.

Merilla, my loue to thee I knowe thou doubtest not, and my care of thy well-doing, is not the least charge of my loue, and the effect thereof not the least happynesse of my life: thy brother thou knowest is trauailed, God knoweth whither, ne when to returne, if God blesse him not the better: now if he perish either in the seas, or the warres, what comfort haue I on the earth? but in thee, and in thy well-doing. Thou art now of yeares to make choise of thy happynesse in placing thy affection, and is there none in our Court that can please thee in that point: make thy choise where thou wilt, I wil leau thee to thy selfe, and will not crosse thee in thy comfort: onely be not base in thy affection, and thou shalt be gratacious in thy kindnesse.

The Ladie (as it shoulde seeme) hauing had some privat con-
ference with her servant Rantiso, of whome she had some notice
of her fathers talke with Signor Speno, about the dispatch of him
from the Court, made him this humble answere: My Grati-
ous father, your carefull loue of me doth so farre blinde me to
you,

You, besides the dutie of nature, that if I should not be obedient to your will, I should winke ill of mine owne; and to bee a discomfort to your kindnesse, I wish I had rather never beeorne; for my brother, so long as you heare no ill newes, hope of the best of him: and for the placing of my affection, it shall be onelie gouerned by your fauour. Bot I am glad to heare you giue mee warning to beware of basenesse; for Signor Spero would haue perswaded me not long since, that I could not bee better graced then in gracing hym gracious, w^t a world of idic wordes spent to verie little purpose: for indæde father, his wit maie be full of cunning, but I feare he is like a false apple, rotten at the heart: for assure your selfe he is not sound to you in loue, that seekes to robbe you of my service: but wheresoeuer it shall please your Maiestie to command my content; in the heauens and your honour shall be the direction of my affection: thus having a little quitted Signor Speros kindnesse, she ended her speech.

When the Duke in some kinde of discontentment, to thinke of Jacke an Apes his moost dance, thus replied to his faire daughter: Well Merilla, regard euerie man in his kinde, and so: that I finde him fit for some seruices, I will not suddenlie put him out of fauour, though I will thinke of him as I haue cause, and finde a time to vse him accordinglie: in the meane time laugh at his follie, & kepe thy affection for a better friend, I will a while leaue th^e here among thy kinde friendes, to sollace thy selfe in this garden: and I will walke a little about my parke, with some of my counsaile. So will I leaue him a while gone into the parke, till his returne againe, into the palece, and I will tell you what fell out with the Ladies in the garden.

There were three young gallantes of the court that had determined to trie their wits to late this ladie abw^tde for her loue; vpon this agreement betwixt them that he that won her fauour shoulde commande the other as his seruantes, and so ever after shoulde call them. Whereupon finding now a conuenient time to trie the fortune of their aduentures, singling themselves one from the other, one of them thinking himself not the w^tst witt

ted; began thus to salute her. Fastre P^rinceste how well to entitle your worshines I know not, but if my unworshines may haue fauour in your patience, my seruice shoulde bee made happye in your emploiment.

The Ladie not making answere shewinge of disdaigne, with a modest smile made him this answere. Truth needeth no eloquence; for your kinde offer of your seruice, I wish you a better preferment, but if I shoulde be so vaine as to trust you, wherein would you giue mee leaue to commande you? The gentleman with this sweet seeming speach halfe perswaded of nothing lesse then her fauour, with all honblenes fell into protestations so farre of his affection, that if he disobeyed her command, or not fulfilled her request, let him die with his ill fortune, or bee disgraced in her fauour: wheretupon with great thankes she made him this answere. Sir, for that finding the greatness of your god will, I would not bee thought vnkinde in my requitall, marke well what I saie unto you. You shall neither drawe your purse for a penny, your sword against an enemy, nor your scote from this place, so that you shall be neither at cost, in feare, nor danger for me, and yet performe my request, and you shall bee assured of my fauour.

The gentleman fearing that she had mocked him with some matter of small importance, made her this answere. Madame though by the slightnes of this service, I feare the weaknes of my fortune, yet erpresse your commandement, and consider of my desert: for be it hard or easie, I will either die or do it. Then (quoth the P^rinceste) without further talke, you see yonder is a diall vpon the wall of my father's window: you see the shadow vpon the diall, stand here till you see the shadow move, and then call me to the light of it, I desire no more for your seruice.

The pore gentleman ther bound by his oth to perfore his protestation, fel to sterte out his eyes, and were the better for his looking: whome shee had no sooner left in that pore taking, but she was set vpon by the second, whome after a great deale of idle talke to little purpose, shee towke vp in this manner. If I shoulde thinke that you could not dissemble, I shoulde thinke you lacked wit, and if I shoulde trust you without triall, you might condemne

condemne me of follie, but if in regard of your protestations I should make proue of your affection, might I presume of your performance, in making proue of your sufficiencie.

The poore man as proude of his hope, as his vnhappy friend, would refuse nothing, make no exceptions, but command and it was done, or let it cost him his life: whereupon to abridge the tediousnes of their discourse, she put him to this peece of service. Sir (quoth shee) you see this Apple-tree before you, I pracie you watch the r̄sopening of them, the heate of the Sunne I heare will change their colour, and fill them full of redde streakes, I pracie you when you see them begin to change colour call me, that I maie see it, and I will require no more service for the assurance of my fauour.

The poore gentleman sworne to his taske, tooke him to his worke; where losse of his labour could get him nothing but repentance: but in that gazing maze he had not stod long, but the thirde followed his fellowes, whome after much needles talke, shee put likewise to this service. Sir (quoth shee) I am easilie perswaded that vpon easie pointes you woulde performe an easie peece of service, but had I neede of your helpe in any matter of difficultie, I maie perhaps faile of your performatiue: hee poore man as well deceived as the rest, in the pride of his opinion, making the worlde but a walke, the seas but a brooke, and wonders but trifles, in respect of that which he would do for her, received this commandement for his emploiment. Sir (quoth shee) you see here this taste of grasse, watch the shooting of any one of them, and call me that I maie see the growing of them; and it is all the seruice, that I meane to put you to for all the fauour that I can afforde you.

The gentleman forced either to falsifie his sayth, or to prove the third sole, tooke him to the ground where he late downe in vaine, to see that was not possible. But while they were thus standing either in muses or mazes returned the Duke into the garden, where marueling to beholde those gallantes in those tunes, having heard þ cause told his daughter, it would be some disgrace to her greatness to offer such discourtesies, as to charge her seruantes with impossibilitie: yet smiling at their follies,

desiring

desiring her to release them, which she soone granted: he called Rantiso unto him not far off walking with a gentleman of his chamber; to whom being come before him, being disposed to be merrie with him, tolde him of his daughters handling of her suitors: but (quoth he) let me intreate thee not to make report of this qualitie in her, least it bee a hurt to her great happinelle, when such as maie be worthie her fauour, maie take dislike at her unkindnesse.

Rantiso not a little pleased to see her so put off her gallant suitors, and yet much discomfited in conceit of his departure, told the Duke, that such trials of her wit, would encrease the titles of her honour; and for himselfe, he would not wish to live, but to honour the roialtie of his house: whiche the Duke seeming to take verie well at his handes, after a fewe ordinarie Courte words, leaving his daughter with her friends and attendants, in the garden, retired himselfe into his chamber and so into his closet: where I will leaue him so a while, at his study, and his daughter in the garden faine into some talkie with her seruants, wherof I will speake hereafter, and I will returne to tell you what followed of Penillo and his fortune.

In this time of Penillo his being vpon the sea, comming from the Emperours Court, he met with a shipp going for Balino the chiefe cittie of his countrey, and in the shipp found one Mario Doronte, the Merchant that first brought ouer Rantiso, the Duke Ordiloes sonne into that countrey, of whom, making the shipp a while to attend him, after that hee had enquired of him of the health of the Duke Ordillo, and his faire daughter the Princesse his mistris, writing a fewe humble lines to his father, with a token of kindnesse to his sister, giuing somelwhat to the sailers, & likewise to Mario Doronte making himselfe towards the Ilandes of Cotali, left them to the heauens blessing. This Mario Doronte being by misfortunes at sea decayed, and having some summes of money due unto him, in the Ilandes of Balino, with his wife and two children, determining to leaue his owne countrey, and so take his habitation in some of the cities of Balino, put to sea in the shipp then going for the chiefe cittie in the Ilandes: not to stand long vpon needlessesse pointes, the
winde

winde and tide serving well, within a few daies they arrived at the Iland, in a hauen neare vnto the cittie Dolno, neare vnto the Court of the Duke Feronte. Where they had not lodged manie daies, but the decaied Merchant hauing occasion to make petition to the Duke, for meanes to come by his mony of his Creditours, taking his wife and childdren with him, as well for comfort of their compaines, as to moue pitty in the Duke the more for their sakes, met at the Court gate with Rantiso going abroade into the parke with his misris the young Princesse ; who looking well vpon the olde man, and his little familie, after a fewe questions of his fortune, and the cause of his comming thither, tooke his petition, with promise not onely to deliuer it to her father, but in what her power coulde doe with hym, to eschew the speede of his suite ; and in the meane time for his relife gave hym a purse with two hundred sh crownes. Rantiso not a little commending this gratiouse bountyn in the young Princesse, calling to minde the crueltie of his owne fortune, and noting the miserie of his ; not willing to make himselfe knowne vnto hym , gave hym yet these wordes to comfort hym : father, if I were not suddainly to depart hence into the Iland from whence you came, I would assure thee , much of my friendshyp, but I will entreat this Ladie in mine absence to folloewe and effect your comfort : whch she willingly promised, and after happilie effected. But ere I go anie further with the discourse of their fortunes, I will leau them for a while, and retarne to Penillo, the Duke Feronte his sonne.

This gallant young Prince was no sooner landed at the coast of the Ilandes, but with great roialtie hee was attended, and with great ioy welcomed to the Court, where, how his misris rejoiced let the hearts of true louers conceiu, for I can not expresse : but let it suffice that, though both their contents met in one coniunction, yet fortune the sworne enemie to all felicitie, fell now to devise crosses to their comforts : so; not long had he bene there making merie with his faire misris, but the Duke his father hauing by the decaied Merchant received a letter of his sonnes making toward those Ilands, whither he was forthwith to send Rantiso vpon a discontentive message, wrote a let-

ter in all post to his sonne for his spedie returne into his countrey: vpon the sight whereof, not a little agriued to leue the Court, where he was so kindlie entertained, and especially his faire mistris the young Princesse of whom he was so deereley beloued, and yet preferring his fathers fauour before his owne pleasure, concealing anie cause of discontent, with thankes to the Duke for all his Roiall kinnesse, and secretlie assuring the young Princesse of his kinde, and constant affection towarde her, tooke his leau of the wholle Court, and returned home to his country. But I will leau him vpon his tourny homewards for a while, and returne againe to Rantiso, who was sent embassadour to his owne father.

Rantiso taking leau of the Duke his master, and the faire Princesse his mistris, was now put to sea, for the Ilandes of Cerasi, leaving the dectated Merchants suit to the fauour of his aforesaid mistris: but ere I tell you anie farther of the Merchant, and his suit, I will tell you what became of Rantiso, and his fortune.

Rantiso being now come to the Ilandes, and so to the Court of Ordillo, at his first comming was honourably entertained, but after the deliuerte of his message, not so kindlie welcome, yet whether for feare of a further mischiefe, or hope of unlooked for kindnes, all discontentment was concealed, and he brought vnto the Duke, who setting his eie well vpon him, began in himselfe to finde somewhat in his aspect that did so much content him, that his embassage did not so dislike him, but his presence did much more please him: therupon he gaue commandement to haue him well lodged and to his place in all duties entertained. But Rantiso after that he had deliuered his embassage, being answered that the Duke desired time to determine of his answere, wch home to his master of the Dukes answere to his demand, and vpon answere that he should stay the limits of his delacie, he tooke his lodgng as neare as he could to the Court, where he might see out of his window the Ladie Bilanca his suster the young Princesse, walking in the garden of a Ladie that had a house neare adjoyning to the Court, whose doore opening into the garden of the house where he was lodged, he tooke occasion

occasion one faire evening to stand in the doore where she passed by, and noting a kinde of gratiouse glaunce toward him, he aduentured to salute her with this kind of greeting: Swete altre, swete bower, and so swete a creature, is not this a Paradise if there be ante on this earth? Indeede my Lord, answered the Princesse, a swete spirit in a swete nature, can finde swete humour, but I praie you what hath moued you to this swete kinde of salutation? Her unknowne brother, not minding yet to be knowne, replied againe, Madame, your selfe is the grace of all the god that I speake of: and if you would let me flatter you with particulars I would tell you as much as you alreadte knowe; but if the worde of a stranger mate go currant in your Court, will you vouchsafe my seruice the favour of your entercainment? The Ladie smilng at his plaine kinde of loue making, and yet loath to put him to silence with a sulle in kinde of answere, tolde him, that men of his place had their wits other wise emploied, when in trying the weak humours of wemen: yet quoth she, my Lord, if I were worthie such a servant, I would not doe dishonour to a stranger; but is it possible that your Lordship can spende thus much breath, but to passe awaie idle time? Truly Madam, answered the embassadour, though I desire not to bee thought a wanton, yet I assure you so; my unsained affection to your worthinesse, since the first houre that I saw you I haue not left to thinke of you, and am so glad here to see you, that where in my seruice mate purchase your content, it shall not be slacke in your commandement. My Lorde answered the Princesse, Cupid hath but a blinde slght, and hot affections are soone quenched, but if your word and thought agree, you mate in time be quited in your kindnes. When as the Lord embassadour was about to replie vnto her speach, a messenger came suddenlie vnto her from the Duke her father, presentlie to come to him, wherupon with humble thankes so; her kinde favour they bade off their talke for that time, she going to the Duke, and he backe againe into his lodging, where I will leauie them for a while, and returne againe to tell you what fell out in the Court of Feronte the Duke of the Islands of Balino.

The young Princesse gladdē that this decaide Merchant has

such a saite to her fasher, tolde him that if vpon the dispatch of his petition, and receipt of his money, hee would returne into his country, and conuaine her ouer with him as a servant to his wife, she would effect such expedition as shoulde be fullie to his content: The poore man having received such bountifull reliefe at her handes, as bound him much to her service, putting all feare aside of what hurt might befall hym, if it were described, promised her to doe his best in all the service hee could devise her: whereupon to be briefe, she became a sater to her fasher for the Merchant, and by her humble importuning his comforst, gat his grant dispatched, whiche no sooner was effected, but with all the spedde that might be, carrying crownes enough to defray all charges, in the apparell of a prentise, that the Merchant had got for the purpose, finding a shipp ready to put to sea for that countrey, stole awaie in a night tide, and with a merrie Gale sone gat to the shore that they made for. But nowe will I leaue to talke further of them, for a while, and I will tell you a selve wordes of the occurrents in the Court of Feronts the Duke of the Ilands of Balino.

The young Prince being nowe returned home, and with great foye received of the whole Court, the Duke in no little maruell that his daughter was so long absent, sent unto her lodginge to knowe the cause of her late, but the messenger returning with no bodie there, and nowe fearing that his strange embassadour had stolne awaie his faire daughter, caused present search to be made for her in all his prouince; but hearing of no word of her, grew into such a rage, as not able to hane patience to heare his sonne touching the Relaltie of his entertainment, sware presentlie to leuite an Armie, and in regard of his indignitie to bee revenged of the whole countrey: and with this resolution went forward. But I will leave him in his choler nowe bent to nothing but reuenge, and I will tell you a few wordes of the merchant and his companie.

The decaide Merchant nowe by the meanes of the young Princesse having made a happy voyage, comming on shore with his familie, and this new page or rather prentise, mette by great happe with the Lord embassadour that was sent from the

Duke

Duke Feronte, in a discontente message, walking with the Ladie Princesse his sister, and an attendant or two of hers onelie going forth of a Castle of the Duke her fathers neare that place, onlie to take a little pleasure in seeing the comming in of the shippes : and doing reverence to the whole troupe the young Princesse called the Merchant vnto her with these wordes.

Alas good Mario, how doest thou, how hast thou sped with thy busynesse : what : didst thou carrie thy wife and chylzen with thee, how darest thou to aduenture them ? Truly I am glad thou art come home safe againe with them, I knowe thou arte pore, and for my selfe thou knowest I am yet not my selfe, but if I live I will doe thee and thy kinde wile some god, for I haue knowne yee both of a childe, and haue had manie a prettie iewel of yee, for which, I hope one daie to requite thee : Thine honesty will be pittied, and shall not bee forgotten, my rememb'rance maie doe thee god ; and for that I know not how thou art furnisched for money holde thee, take this purse at my handes, a hundred crownes will doe thee no hurt, though not the god I wish the. But what prettie boy is that thou hast with the? The merchant with teares of thankfull kindnesse receyving her bountie, tolde her that it was a prettie yonge of the Islands of Balino, that hauing a desire to see that country came with him in the shippes, desiring him to put him to some god master ; at which wordes, the embassado: looking stedfastly vpon him, & rememb'ring his miseries, asked of the Merchant if he woulde bestow him vpon him. The Merchant knowing the Pages minde, was verie well content with his demande, and asking the Page if hee woulde make choice of him for his master, seemed verie willing to agree thereto, when the Ladie no lesse fixing her eie vpon the Page then the embassadour, and no lesse affecting him then hee did, with a modest countenance made this speach vnto him.

My Lord, you know your aboade in this countrie is not certayne, and this prettie wagge comming hither, either to see the countrie, or to learne the languages, if he shold retorne with you, he might be little benefitted by his traauyle ; but if it maie please you to bestowne your god will on me for him, I will take that regarde of him, that he shal not repent him of his seruice.

Madame (quoth the embassadour) if I shoule deny you so smal a request, having so great an interest in my seruice, you might well mistrust me in a matter of moze importance, if I shoule faile you in this. The page unknowne to anie but the merchant and his familie, who had sworne secrecy in her behalfe, having no time to meditate what to doo, and seeing her seruaunt the embassadour, now as it were in loue with an other Ladie, was content to accept the Ladies kind offer, and so leauing the merchant well recompensed for all his kindnesse; attended them to the Dukes Castle: where I will leauue the embassadoure after leauue taken of his mistris the young Princesse his sister, yet unknowne, going to his lodging, and I will tell you a little of the Ladie and her new page, as great a person as her selfe.

The Princesse looking oftentimes vpon her page, and finding in his featurz a great resemblance of her loue her brother, willed a tailer to be sent for, whome shee commandēd against the next morning, to bring her a pece of white satten, of which shoule be made a suite of apparrell for the page, and so commanding the boie to attende her vnto her chamber, shee called for a lute, whiche, hearing of him vpon demand of his qualities, that hee had some little skill in, willed him to make her a little musick, whiche both in his touch, and voice, she liked so well, that she began exceedinglie to fauour him: but after musick donne she willed the boie to walke into the garden, and there gather such flowers, or such fruities, as best might like him, and in the morning she would put him out of his prentice suite, whiche hee willingly did, and having gathered a handfull of roses, & plucking off an apple called a Pome-roic; hee returned in to his mistris the Princesse lodging, who at a windowe noting his soleyme kind of walking, and the fruit that he gathered, after his coming vp called him into her chamber. But first let me tell you a little of the pages speach that he had to himselfe in the garden, per he went vp.

Oh poore Merilla, what a misery art thou salne into: left thy countrie, thy father, thy friendes, and all thy home fortune, to followe a stranger, who hath betraied thy affection, and abusid thy fauour: women are said to haue their willes wauer as

the

the wind: but oh false Rantiso, no sooner come to the Sea, but thy loue is gone into an other worlde; Rantiso, no thou art Fan-tiro, the Dukes sonne, what soever be thy conceit to conceale it from thy father, and Bilanta is thy sister, howsoever thou hast made her thy misbris. But alas, what will become of thee? when thy misbris shal know thee to be thy selfe, how will she vse thee? if I reueale what I am, can she other then disdaine thee? our pa-rents being scarce friends, if thou reuealest the cause of thy com-ming, will shee not laugh at thy follie, & make it knowne to the worlde: if she do not, it is more of the heauens blessing, then thy merite, and of her god nature, then thy wit. Sate that now shae doth somewhat like of thee, shée maie bee then out of loue with thee: and yet it wate be that for her loue to her brother she maie be kind to me, and at my humble entreatie, conceale my follie from the worlde: well, I will hope the best, till I see the wost. And so determining to make her selfe knowne to her misbris, she went vp into her lodging, where being come to the prynceesse she fel againe to her moslike, wherein she did so please the Prin-ceesse, that she thought euerie houre a yere till she had some pri-uate conferance with him, for which she staid not long; for af-ter that she had commandred all her attendants out of the cham-ber but the page, willing him to lye downe his lute, shée fel aboore with him in this maner. My prettie wag, if thy misbris should haue occasion to employ thee in a secret peice of seruise, wouldest thou so lye it vp in thy bosome, that no man shoulde percelue it? Madame (quoth the page) for my secrecie, I holde it not the least part of mine honesty, and therefore make you no doubt of it, but if my sufficiencie answeare not your expecta-tion, I beseech you let mee entreake your pardon, assuring your honour that I shall hate my selfe in slacking my dutie in your seruise: but god Madaine be not angrie if my god will bee not for;tunate; for my heart I protest, you haue bound it to you, in the faith of much affection.

The Ladie not a little pleased with this speech gave him this hind answeare. Thy affection is the best part of the seruise that I will desire at thy handes, for to tell thee truthe, I never sawe the face, but one that I liked so well, or could thinke to loue but thine,

shirre, and for hym, hee was a noble personage, son and heire to the Duke Feronte of the Ilandes of Balino, who is latelie gone home, and I feare will never come againe; such heartburning is growne betwixt our parentes, vpon the painement of a little monie, vngodly kind of drosse, the cause of much mischiefe in the world; therefore I must haue patience with my passion, for ever hoping of comfort at his hands: but for his sake whose feature me thinkes I beholde in thy face, I did first affect thee, and do nowe for his, and thine owne sake I must confesse entierlie loue thee: be wise therefore I charge thee, for in revealing my loue it may endanger thy life, & in concealing thy comfort, thou shalt finde the honour of thy fortune.

The Page with a great sigh at his brothers absence, but more agricued at the discord of the two Dukes, with her eies readie to shedde teares, made her this humble answeare: God Madam, shall I humblie begge this favour at your hands, that you will vouchsafe to keepe secret, what I will commit vnto the onelie care of your honourable kindnes, wherein you mate either sauе my life, or procure my death? Sweete boie, quoth the Princesse, let me not lye, but I will doe more for thy loue then I will speake of: and for my secretie, suspect nothing that mate hurt thee, and speake frelie, wherin I mate do thee good, thinke I cannot vse thee unkindlie. Then god Madam, answered the Princesse, I will tell you a strange yet true tale: The embassadour that seemeth to bee your louer, is your brother, sonne to the Duke your father, his name is Fantiro, sought to be slaine by a murtherer hired thereto by your uncle lately dead, but to sauе his life sought by the malice of your vngodly uncle, was deliuered vnto the decaied Merchant Mario, who brought him as a page to our Court, I meane the Court of Feronte, the Duke of Balino my father; whose daughter I am brought ouer in this habit that you see, onlie to come to the sight of your brother my onlie beloued Lord on this earth. Your brother for my loue, was by a wretch in our Court wrought hither to this embassage, but such was his cariage in our Court, as from his first setting foote into fauour, he dailie encreased it, by his much well deseruing; so that there was no man of god spirit, but loued

ued him, and were sorrie to part with him, and for my affection to him, let my trauaile witnesse my truth: Solwe for the loue that in nature you beare your brother, for the kindnes that you maie finde requited in my brother, for the honor that you beare vnto loue, and for the loue that you beare vnto honour; let me humble beseech you to conceale my follie, and in what you may to be a friend to my affection.

The Princesse with a modest blush smiling at her discourse, made her this kinde and gratiouse answeare: Sister, so so will I loue thee and esteeme thee, as I cannot be happy in any thing vnder heauen, but in thy brothers loue, whch I holde as deere as my life, so if my brother doe not in all honourable service either requite or deserue this thy kindnesse, I protest to renounce him for my brother, and detest him as mine enemie: be therefore of good chare, and feare no euill: thy fortune shall be mine, my bedde, my table, my purse, yea and my heart shall be all at thy disposing to doe thee good. And thus will I leaue them togither in their kinde talke, and I will tell you a little of the Duke Feronte, and his sonne.

The Duke Feronte, in no little rage to thinke of the losse of his daughter, notwithstanding that he had heard his sonnes report of his Rosall entertainment, followed on his determinacion, for his intended warre against the Duke Ordillo, where his embassador was too well to returne, and his faire daughter was taken loues prisoner, and therefore calling his sonne before hym vsed these wordes vnto him: Penillo, I haue made thee acquainted with my resolution for my reuenge of y wrong, that I haue receaved of Ordillo; out of whose countrey, I will fetch my sond daughter thy unhappy sister, either dead or aliue, and therefore prepare thy selfe to put off all conceit of his kindnes, and gaine the encrease of my loue, by the honour that thou shalt get upon mine enimis.

The young Prince, sorie to haue such cause to carrie armes against the father of his faire misris, and yet unwilling to be disobedient to his father, though it were the aduenture of his death, did humble frame him this answeare: My Gratiouse father, I would be loath to dissuade you from your settled resolution,

sion, but yet let me tell you, that although loue hath in my sister brought a follie, shall the malice of a wicked spirit so poison your eare, that such a sorte possesse your heart, that no sparkie of patience can haue place in your conceit? It will bee thought to the greatest part of your Court, yea and almost to your whole countrey, that Signor Sperto hath beeene the kindler of all this fise, and the b^reder of all these warres: I wonder not a little that your Grace coulde endure to heare of his presumption, in making loue to my sister; who I thinke bee rather runne into another countrey to trie the fortune of her affection, then to liue at home to abide the vnfitting suite of so fflatiouned a creature: whom, but that he hath the name of a man, if I did not the better know him, I shoulde surelie take for a monster. But if I mate begge so much fauour of your Grace, as to grant me my humble suite, I beseech you beginne justice at home, and I hope we shall prosper the better abroad: Let Sperto in regard of his malicious practise against a stranger, and presumption in troubling the patience of your daughter, be openlie called before you, reprehended for his follie, and banished your Court for his offence, and I doubt not but your maiestie shall see the venome of his vile nature droppe out in his right kinde, my sister hono- rable returned to your good fauour, and your warres turne to such a peace, as all that loue you shall be glad of. I speake not this like h Prince of Pigmeies that should be afraid of Cranes, but that I will attend you in your warres, where I hope an honourable triumph will be better then a bloudie conquest: but fall what will, I will not liue but to bee obedient to your loue: and therfore will be readie, when it shall please you to attende you.

The Duke not a little noting the good counsall of his discreet sonne, willing his son to be in readines, against a date shartlie after appointed him, caused Sig. Sperto for whom to be brought before him, to whome with a sterne countenance he vsed this speech: Sperto, I haue long giuen eare to thine vn suspeaced subtiltie, but of late having sounded the reache of thy conceit, I will liae open thy cumming: in the time of Rantfoes being in our Courte, thou couldest never cease to ring in mine eares some cause

cause of dislike in him, which I tolke well at thy handes, in regard of thy imagined care of my god; but nowe I finde the ground of thy bngatious working gretew from the malicious feare in thes, of his faour from my faire daughter, whom thy unworthe selfe wouldest haue bewitched w^t wicked eloquence, let me tell thes, for that I haue in some occasions of importance, made good vse of thy service, thou shalt not be vntregarded, for I will make thee receiuer of my customes: but for thy saucines with my swete daughter, driven out of our countrey by thy dogged meanes, I will out of hande, haue thee made an Eu. nouch; and so commanding one of his Surgeons, to take him to his charge, to dismember him of his implements, sell in hande presentlie with his Counsaile, to go forwardes with his resolution for his warres: while Sperto with the conceit of his miserie, cravint leue of the Surgeon to spare him till the next morning, when his griesse being put a little ouer, he shoulde with the more strength endure his torment, rather desirous to go to hell quicklie, then to hope for heaven with repenteance, with a paire of his owne garters hangde himselfe in his owne chamber. But leauing thus the wicked wretch to his wofull end, and the furious Duke in his merorable anger, proceeding onwards with his warres: I will tell you a fewe wordes of the two Ladie Merilla and Bilanta, the imagined page that I left togither in their chamber w^t in a Castle of the Duke Ordillo.

The Ladie Bilanta, after she had secretlie conferred w^t the Ladie Merilla, touching both their loues, minding to make her selfe merrie w^t a prettie conceit, after that they had past a night or two in priuat talke togither how to bring all matters about to their best contentment, sent for the embassadour her brother, in all kindnesse speedelie to come to her; who no sooner received the message, but laying all busynesse apart, came to his suster, whom he then called misris, little thinking indeed to haue found his true beloued, and loving misris so neere. But being come into her lodging and well entred into her chamber, commanding apart all her attendantes, shew thus fell into talke with him.

Servant, though perhaps it maie seeme immodestie in a
G 2. Virgin

Virgin of my sort to giue such entertainment to a stranger of what sort soever he mate be, as I am perswaded your honourable kindnesse will deserue; yet let me entre at you one fauour to tell me withoutt dissembling, if I am the first obiect of your dearest affection, or whether you never haue had anie mistris that you haue helde anie especiall account of, and hath worthilie had the promise of your loue? Truly Madame answered her brother, as hee thought unknowne to her, I must confess I had a mistris whom I so deereley loued, and so duelle serued, that had I anste possible hope to enioye the fruit of her fauour, I shoulde hate my selfe in the loue of anie other, but shee being so farre from the comfort of all such conceit, I thinke it no dishonour to my loue, to doe service to the vertue that I finde in you: so, if I coulde be so vile as to thinke you a base thought death bee the rewarde of my desire, and to presume farther in the best nature of honour, then mate stande with your god fauour, might condemne me of follie, and perhaps overthrowe my fortune, but in such good termes to doe you service as mate please you to accept, I think it a dittie in Chualtrie: but for my mistris I protest had you ever seene and knowne her, you would haue thought as much god of her as I do, and wish her as much hapynesse as I want.

The Ladie smiling at this answere, would needes know her name, and whence she was: who tolde her that she was the onlie daughter of his master the Duke Feronte, her name was Merilla, and she was the likeliest unto the Page that she lately had from the Merchant, that ever she sawe: Well (quoth the Lady) no longer my Lord embassador, but deere brother, I am glad to see thee heere, for thou art my brother, and that shall my father knowe ere long: thy mistris is more worthie of honour, then our whole countrey and thy life can giue her: and with that word, Page quoth she to the Ladie Merilla, I prate thee take thy lute and play and sing thy wylsh: whiche she being in the chamber unseene by meanes of a curtein of Crimsin damaske drapery betwix them, tooke her lute and plaid a note to a dittie, whiche she sung as followeth.

The

The song.

I Would thou wert not faire, or I were wise:
 I would thou hadst no face, or I no eies:
 I would thou wert not wise, or I not fond,
 Or thou not free, or I not so in bond.

But thou art faire, and I cannot be wise:
 Thy sunlike face, hath blinded both mine eies;
 Thou canst not be but wise, nor I but fond,
 Nor thou but free, nor I but still in bond.

Yet am I wise to thinke that thou art faire,
 Mine eies, their purenesse in thy face repaire;
 Nor am I fond, that doe thy wisedome see:
 Nor yet in bond, because that thou art free.

Then in thy beautie onely make me wise,
 And in thy face, the Graces guide mine eies:
 And in thy wisedome onely see me fond;
 And in thy freedome keepe me still in bond.

So shal thou still be faire, and I be wise:
 Thy face shine still vpon my cleared eies;
 Thy wisedome onely see how I am fond:
 Thy freedome onely keepe me still in bond.

So would I thou wert faire, and I were wise:
 So would thou hadst thy face, and I mine eies:
 So would I thou wert wise, and I were fond:
 And thou wert free, and I were still in bond.

The song was no sooner ended but Fantiro (for so wll I henceforth giue him his right name) oftentimes changing coloure, as one in many passions at the hearing both of her voice, which

was so like his mistris the Ladie Princesse Merilla, as misght be; and remembryng the dittie to be of his owne compylling, and that in secret he had gauen it vnto her when hee first perceyued her fauour, after he had commended her voise, as he was about to speake somwhat of his passion, his sister vpon the lodeine caused the curtem to bee drawne, when hee might see in a riche suite of her apparell, the imagined page; but in daede his mistris standing by a windowe, with her face towards him: when his sister seeing him stande as one amazed, vsed this speech vnto him. Why, how now brother? doth thy heart saile ther? how dost thou like this sight? thou hast I knowe often heard that a girle will turne to a man, and is it then vnpossible, that a boie mate as well turne to a woman? What ailest thou, dost thou feare thou seest a shadowe and not the true body of thy mistris? or hast thou bene false vnto her in thy faith? and therfore art feareful of the heauens displeasure to plague thee, with some woe: se sp̄rit, then thine own: for shame go to her, bid her welcome, it is thy mistris, I do not dissemble, be thankfull for her kindnesse, and deserue her loue.

The young Prince ashamed anie longer to stande in his maze, seeing his mistris in little better tune, to behold her seruant, i assurēd louer so strange vnto her, as if he either had not, or would not haue known her, went vnto her with these words. Madame, thinke it not strange to see me in this perplerisite of minde, that I am in, so much is my vnworthines of this, and manie your honourable fauores, but especiallie this triall of your affection hath so bounde mee to your seruite, as if the aduenture of my life mate make prese of my loue, let me die like a villaine, if I do not honour your vertue.

The sweet Lady with modest kindnes as much as she could concealing the greatness of her loue, as well in beholding her loue, as hearing his vndoubted true protestations, made him this sweete replie. My deare loue, for so dare I haere tearme you, when I had no knowledge of that title of honour, that now I haere and am glad to vnderstande dylle belongeth to you, my loue was in the same nature that now it is: your vertue worne my affection, and your kindnesse continued my content, your noble

noble carlage assured me of your constancie, & al togither haue brought mee hither to receiuē my comforde, not caring to loose the loue of father, brother, & friend, honour, wealth, ease, & all other wo;ldes happines, that Balino could haue procured me, to aduenture the Seeas, in the pōre habiske of a P̄entile, in the seruice of a pōre decayed Merchant, to come into a strange countrie, to abide what fortune soever might befall me, onelie to acquaint your kindnes with my loue. Nowe if your greatnesse haue not altered your godnesse, nor my immodesty haue withdrawne your affection, thanke your honourable siste for her kindenes towardes mee, and bee your selfe, your selfe unto me.

The young Prince with as much adw as could be to abstaine from teares of kindnes, to thinke of this seldome scene saythfull affection in so faire a creature, made her this comfortable reple. Sweet Princelle, in whome nature vnder the heauens hath shewed the pride of her perfections: how shoulde I liue to counteruaile the least part of this your exceeding honorable fauour. Had I ten such Dukedomes, I would lay them al at your ferte, and were I the greatest Prince on the earth, I would bee gladdē to bee your servant: but as in regarde of your first affection, I am bounde to honour you with my service; so so: this your last honour, my loue I vow shall ener serue you: and now late by all thought of strangers: this land is yours, my father I know will reioyce in you, my selfe vnder heauen, will haue no loue bnt you: for I protest without dissenibling my wo;ldes foie is wholie in you. And this will I leaue these louers with the other Ladie in this their secret kinde conseruence, and I will tell you, what followed of Mario the decayed Merchant.

This Mario the Merchant, hearing newes in the Citty, that the Duke Ferone was comming from Balino, with a great Armie against the Duke Ordillo and his country, thought god no longer to conceale the Embassadoure his sonne from him, and therefore comming to the Court, and having obtained meanes to haue some priuate conseruence with the Duke, in fewe wordes deliuered the discourse of all that I before haue recited;

both

both of his escape from the intended murther of his malicious Uncle, of his carrying him ouer, of his plesement in Court by him, and of the cause of his comming thither in Ambassage: all which recounted truly as it was, with the comming ouer of the Ladie Merilla in the attire of a Prentise, for the loue of his son Fantiro, so pleased the Duke, that he not onelie kindly gaue him thankes, but richly rewarded him for his good newes, and toalike considered all his honest, and kinde dealing: and presentlie caused his sonne the Ambassador to be sent for, whom he welcomed with such a sorte, as such a father might such a son. Who having recounted all his fortune, his father the Duke caused his sister the young Princesse to be sent for, to whom he not onelie gaue thankes for her carefull, and kinde vsage of the young Princesse Merilla, but charged her vpon his blessing to continue all kindnesse, that might giue her knowledge of the ioyfull loue that shee shold finde both in himselfe, his Court, and his whole countrey: and that for a fewe daies shee shold seeme to conceale it from her, that he knewe of her being in his Court, till he had made preparation euerie wate fit for the entertainment of her presence. And thus will I leau the Ladies passing their time together in priuate conference of their thickest comfortes, and I will returne to the Duke Feronic nowe having gotten his forces togither, marching with his whole Armie towardes the sea, minding to make for Corash, where nothing shold content him but a conquest.

The Duke resolued vpon his determination, either to leau his bloud, or take his revenge, dispatching awaie a post with letters to his ambassador for the defiance of his termed enemy the Duke, and proclamation of warre with him and his whole countrey, calling his sonne vnto him, vpon a rocke on the sea side in the middest of his Armie made this speech vnto his people, The long iurie that I haue borne at the handes of my unfriendlie neighbour Ordillo, besides the debt that hee oweith me, and never intendeth to paye me, togither with my extreme griefe for the losse of my onely daughter, that onelie through a fonde affection carried I know not how; to a stranger I know not whom, conuicted away by a bank;out, or decaled merchant,

if I maise better ferme him into that vngriations piece of ground where Ordillo hath his gouernment: these I late with manie other lust causes of discontentment conceyued against y proude Prince and his stubbone people, haue caused me to put on the resolution either of death or reuenge, which shall no wate ende but in conquest or submision; as manie therfore as either regarde our loue, or haue anie hope of our fauour, let them with willing he artes followe the honour of my resolution, p^ro- testing that whatsoener he bee, that shall in the least shewe of feare turne his backe vnto the enemie, if hee were as deere to me as mine owne sonne, he shall die in the place where I finde him: bat heo that shall with the fortune of his swadnesse bring me the Duke or his sonne either dead or aliue, I will so regard and reward him, that he shall leau honour to his poste- rittie: the winde serueth well for our passage, and we shall finde them perhaps vnp^rouised for our comming, so the easer will be our victorie and the shorter our warres, if not the sharper our fight, the greater will be our honor, and since feare is the badge of villanie, let vs auoide the shame of such condition: and as manie as loue either our crowne or countrey, holde vp their handes with me: who then in the whole campe, that had a hand, but he would holde it vp? Well to grow towardes an ende, as the Prince said, so said the people: the Duke set fote abord, and all the Armis followed him: the winde serued, the sailes were hoised, and the anchoris weied, and awaie they went: where I will leau them for a while, and returne againe to Or- dillo the Duke of Cotali and his sonne, Fronce his embassa- dour.

The post having been with the embassadour as he thought, but now rather an enemie then a friend, if this quarrell should go forwarde, perceluing the intent of the Duke his late ma- ster, rather chusing to be an vnsynde seruant, then an unnatu- rall sonne, wrote vnto him, that the case was altered, hee had nowe chosen an other master, whose loue hee knewe was such vnto him, that seruing him faithfullie, woulde not use him un- kindlie: his embassage was deliuered, and nowe this must bee his answere, as in kindness hee might command march, so by

the contrarie as little ; his comming was more expected then feared, and his welcome shold be as he deserued : and for hymselfe, if his fortune were to his hope, he shold find a kinder servant, then he had done a master: with these and such like conciu-sions, dispatched awaie.

The young Prince, presentlie went to his father the Duke Ordillo, with whom and his Counsaile conferring vpon the ser-vice spaedelie to bee had care of, taking order by vertue of his Commission, to leue a great Armie, as well to encounter the enemie, as in diuerse places of strenght to stand for defence, if ante occasion shold be offered, being secure for ante feare, or doubt to be ouertaken, hearing by a Vinnis, that being at sea descrid the flēete so farre, as by meanes of crosse windes, and ill weather, they could not in fwe daies come neere the shō:e of their countrey: after he had a little reposid himselfe, after his traualle, considering the great discomfort that his misris the young Princelle might take vpon the rumour of these warres, making all the meanes hee could to haue it kept from her hear-ing, tooke a conuenient time to go to his sister, with whome his misris as yet remained. But as such kinde of persons most inquisitiue of newes are not without their intelligencers, so fel it out, that the post was scarce at the Court, but his mes-sage was knowne to the young Ladies, whose p;riuate confe-rence vpon the same, before Fantiroes comming to them, was as followeth.

Merilla considering the manie sorowes that were now like to fall vpon her, the assurance of her fathers displeasure, the doubt of her brothers loue, and the feare of the young Prince her seruantes death in the seruice, was euen so appauled, that (following the humours of women) first to sigh for a little griefe of disobedience in nature, then ensolding her armes, as lamenting the doubted losse of her brothers loue, and last of all, weeping with feare to lose the comfort of all her worldes hope, in her deare beloved and kinde louing Lorde, in the misfortune of the warres, was by the young Princelle her seruantis sister comforted with these wordes.

Sister, so will I nowe terme thee, for so doe I holde thee,
and

and so doe I hope to haue thee, and so will I euer loue thee; take
not too much griefe at any thing, that either feare or doubt may
put into thy head, let this comfort thee, that thou art not alone
in thy miserie: if thou hast left a father, thou hast found a friend,
and if thou hast lost a brother, then hast found a sister, choler and
melancholie governes the spirits of the aged, but kindnesse and
mirth shoulde be the humours of our yeares: nature biddes you
loue your father, so you maie though you do not liue with him;
but loue biddes you liue with your friende, which you can not if
you be from him; and let me tell you, that as well as I seeme to
beare it out, I am strong at the heart as well as you: I loue
your brother as dearely as I can devise, but so; his affection, I
had litlle time to hope of, and too little time to enioie. Nowe
my father I loue, as you doe yours, but your brother I cannot
loue as you doe mine, for I cannot enioie his presence, as you
doe my brothers: you feare the fortune of the warres, and I
both fortune and the wars. I would my case were yours or as
yours, that fortune would do her wo:st, so I had but my loue to
ooke on: be therefore content, put off this mourning, this warrs
maie br̄e a blessed peace, for when the Princes are both in the
field, my wits shal faile me, but I wil plot such a piece of service,
as hath never been heard of before, and I belieue once executed,
will not be forgotten in hast. The other young Princele much
comforted to haue such a companion in her crosles, and that
the heauens did fauour her affection, or else fortune would not
haue bin so kind to her in her aduentures, taking a little hart of
grace, loath to die with conceit, wout greater cause then she yet
had, so; though her head was much troubled with imaginati-
ons, yet nothing came so neare her heart, but a looke of her loue
would put it quite out of place, yet with a little kinde of heau-
nesse made her this answeare. God Madame, if the miseries
were far greater that I endure, then I hope they euer will be,
yet of such force are the perswasions that you haue vsed unto
me, that I shoulde beare them with such patience, that I shoulde
forget much of the paine: but yet so manie are the thoughtes of
griefe in my head, that but for the comfort of your honourable
kindnesse, woulde doe me but a little good in my heart: I must
confesse

confesse loue is the life of the heart, but what is the daie that comes but like lightening : little better then darke night. You cannot mourne so much for the lacke of your hope , as I for the losse of my happiness ; your loue mae bee forcible for the time, but it is not of so long continuance as mine, and for that the eie sees not, the heart grieues not; you feare the fortune of the warres, and I wishe for nothing but peace. But sister, since you will haue it so, and I would it were so, euerie waie that you wilhe , till the warres bee determined I can be at no quiet, for if my brother die, you lose your loue, if your brother perish, what ioie haue I in the world ? if fortune fauour my father, my comfort will be little with my affection, and if your father haue the fiede , downe goes the honour of my house: so that I can no waite see how it can go so well, but wofull will bee the issue of what fortune soone befal : but god Madam, if there be anie humour in your heade , that mae giue comfort to my heart, I beseech you acquaint me with some little sparke of your conceit.

I will quoth Merilla her sworne sister: and as she was beginning to vtter some part of her minde , her brother Fantiro the young Prince came in, who with a kinde Congre, lacking no Grace to entertaine time with such Gratiouse creatures , finding them in alike tunes for their humours, somewhat twaere maidens melancholie, hoping to remoue it with a Corpus habeas, fell aboord with them in this manner : Ladies all, faire fortunes besall you , what fowle weather doe you dreame of, that makes you drowne so in your countenance? I hope sister, you are not afraid of sparrow-blassing, and for my swete misris, I would I kne w the cause of her discontent, I would sone procure her comfort.

The Ladie with a merrie goe sorrie not yet having fullie acquainted him with her loue to Penillo , the Duke Feronte his sonne, nowe comming in Armes against her father, made him this answere : Brother, my sister and I am both sicke of one disease, I would we might both alike haue remedies : but these wicked warres haue put vs both in such a flicht , that till they be at a point, we are not like to be at rest : her brother as dare

to me, as she to you, I haue no cause to hope ever to ensste, so manie are my perswassions thereto, you are not yet possessted though beloued, and maie bee lost though never enioyed, so our croesse carding gets nothing but sorrowe, our heads are so full of doubts, and our heartes so full of feares, I speake for my sister as my selfe. Well answered Fantiro, for my mistris let her be comforted with this, that my lise I maie lese, but shee my loue never; and for your feares and doubtes, they are incident to your natures, and therefore you maie the better awaie with them. But deere mistris, quoth he, turning to Merilla, bee not dismayed at anie thing, feare nothing, the prayers of a Virgine are exceedinglie effectuall, I am perswaded, if anie lime in the fielde, the lot would fall to me and your brother: for our loues and your prayers cannot but prosper togither. And for my loue thus much wyl I saie to satisfie all conceit of your imaginacion, that so honourable is the nature of my affection, and so gratiouse the honore of your vertue, that I shold hate my selfe, if I shold offend you; but in doing you service, shall bee my resolute happiness. Time giues me not leaue to solemnize the rights of our desires, & therefore will I attend the issue of my fortune, to performe the care of my duttie, ere with the hasting of my happiness, I maie displease the honour of your patience: in the meane time, assuring my selfe, that my sister will be to you as a second selfe, I will leaue you to her kinde companie till you maie heare further of my wished comfort.

His mistris the young Princeesse not a little pleased with this speech of his, wherein taking her chiese notes in the assurance of his never dying loue, the prosperitie of the Virgines prayers, & the patience of his affection to attend the issue of his fortune, with a heart as full of greefe, as her eies weeping ripe could conceale, made him this short answeare. My deere loue, in the midst of extremities hope is the comfort of the miserable, and though I see no perswasion of comfort in the issue of these warres; yet will I not despaire of the blessing of a peace: let my lise march with thy loue, and my prayers with thy actions, and if the fates be not too frowarde, I will hope the best of thy fortune; and for your patience, it is a profe of your constancie;

and for your care in committing me to your seler, it is the true witnesse of kindnesse in your selfe. What shall I saye: if wee were not women, we shoulde haue hearts like men; but as we are, giue vs leaue to shew our weakenes, till we be comforted with your happiness: and for that I know, your carfull experiance is not a little comforte to your father, in this aason, I will entreat you if it mate be, not to thinke of me, till I mate come to you, which in the warres is vnsit, and in peace is yet vnlikely.

His Sister wshall came in with her ffe pennie morice in this manner. Brother, though you cannot bee out of loue, yet now you are in hand with other matters, trouble not your selfe with thinking of vs, till neede be: forget not your selfe, and we will not forgette you; followe your busynesse, let vs alone with your humours: the pouers of heauens bring all to a god ende.

The young Prince with a thankfull Amen to their prayer, tooke his leaue of them both and returned to the Court, where I will leaue him with his father, preparing for his Armie, and the two Ladies in their chamber, parting stakes in conceites, and I will returne to Feronte the Duke of Balino, and his son Penillo, who with a great Armie were in sight of lande, but for some politique occasions to take the benefite of time, did anker all nighte in the Roade before the Harbour; at which time the young Prince desirous, by some resolute aduenture, to garne some especiall honour, humbly besought the Duke his father, that hee would vouchsafe him leaue, to haue the leading of the Vanguarde, the first daie of service, and the first night to haue the setting of the watch: both whiche in regarde, as well of his earnest suit, as for the skill that he saue in him, and the honour that he had gotten in the Emperours wars against the Turke, was granted him. But after a counsayle helde by the Duke himselfe, his Sonne, and all his honourable followers, for the pitching of his Campe, and determination of his service, taking some little repose, till the first breaking of the morning; as soone as they had light to serue their turns for landing, they made all the hast they coulde a shore: where I will leaue them
for

for a whyle pitching their Tentes, and prouding for the warres,
and I will tell you a woorde or two of the two Ladies, that I left
in their chamber.

Bilancia hauing receaued newes that the enemtie was lan-
ded, and that the Dukes both in their Tentes, therewas like
to be a battell out of hand; began thus to talk to her sister Prin-
celle. Sister did not I tell thee that I would plaine a mad part-
wilt thou do as I do? venture our liues for our loues? if we shal
be sisters let vs take handes, and heartes to take part alike in
our fortunes: I will not stirre a foote from thee: what sayest
thou?

The Ladie amazed at her manner of speach, and yet know-
ing the nature of her loue, made her this answeare: Saise and
it is done; for I am no more then you will haue me, if I sayle
in my loue, let me fall with my life: I will make no exception
knowing the honour of your discretion, but stand vpon this re-
solution, our fancies of one feather, let our loues lie togither:
what you do I will do, if I die for it I care not. Then quoth Bi-
lancia, ten to one, but Penillo will be the formost man in the field,
and perhaps to striue for honour, maie step vpon a stome of dan-
ger, where if his stome slappe, hee maie happen bee taken vp ver-
he rise. My father and my brother are I am sure in their Tent,
before whom enerie man must come that will seeke preferment
in this peice of service. Now let vs plaine the gallantes; geisse
Armour, and furnishe our selues with Armour, sworde, and
Pike, and let vs with our burgonettes close courting our fa-
ces, as strangers unknowne, make suit to the Duke my father
and my brother, to haue leaue before the battel, to do some peice
of service in his honour: and saise that we are young knyghtes
that will not be knowne till our actions be performed, but that
we come from two Ladies (I meane our selues) who were sent
by them, with this chaine of Pearle to gratifie the Duke, and
this Jewell my brother, the better to obtaine leaue for the ex-
ecution of our attempte. Nowe if we get leaue as I doubt not
it maie be, we shall be happier then we looke for.

Good sister (quoth Merilla) agreed, I am for you: if I durst
aduenture the danger of the seas, to follow my friend, shall

I feare anie course in the compaie of my kinde sister? No, betide me life, or death, I will take part with you in your fortune. Then sister (quoth Merilla) wee two will arme our selues like to gallant young souldiers, and being vnknowynge when our Van-guards are put down, we will go to the Duke my fathers tent, where ten to one, wee shall finde my brother with him, to them will wee present our selues, by a friend that I haue made for the purpose, who shall not anie waie reveale vs, but make report, that wee are two strange knyghtes, that for our honoures haue auowed to feare no dangers, nor slippe any occasion of aduenture: and hearing of late, of this Larum of the arriuall of the Duke Feronte, and his Armie, will vpon him o; some of his chiese Generals perfore some such resolute piece of ser-vise, as maie well approue more loue, then we will protest both to his Maiestie and his countrey, which performed, wee will then reveale our selues, our names and conditions, onely we will entreat but this fauour, that we mate alone without fur-ther compaie haue leauue to march this night towardes the e-nemie, vpon whome we hope to gaine such honour, as maie be to the Dukes consent, and the benefite to his whole countrey; and the better to procure this fauour, I will carrie this chaine of pearle, that with a letter to the effect of this suite I will car-rie, as written from me to my brother, whch with this chaine of pearle shall be giuen him as from me: nowe if we obtayne our suite wee will to the fielde, and through the darke, frise our fortune. It giveth me in my mind, the young Prince your bro-ther will be somewhat gallant vpon the spleene, and steppre fur-ther then he is aware of: whch if he doe, and we light vpon him, it maie bee it will make a short warre: howsoever it bee I am resolued, if we be taken prisoners, wee shall recouer no great hurt, and if we die, our sorowes are at an ende.

The Princesse Merilla smilling at her iuention, and hauing past her promise to followe her in her enterprize, was as good as her worde, went with her into a private chamber with her si-ster Bilanta, where they fell to conferre with a secret sciende, for the better effecting of their intent, where I will leauue them like Amazones, fitting their armours, to plate the partes of madde people,

people, and I will tell you a word or two of the Duke Ordillo,
and his sonne Fantiro.

The Duke making preparation for the next daie to answere
the enemie both horse and foote, and after good order taken for e-
uerie thing according to his desire, calling his sonne vnto him,
with certaine of his Lordes, and principall men of Armes, bled
this roiall speech vnto him: My god friendes and followers,
the matter that we haue now in hande, is of no little moment,
when the liues of our selues, wifes and childe:en, our libertie,
our landes and gods, and our honour, and reputation for ever
in this worlde, standeth vpon the issue of one daies service,
wherein the triumphant shall bee blessed, and the vanquished
in a manner vtterlie confounded: our enemie is angrie, and
ferce, now it becommeth vs to be patient and valiant: for no-
thing moze daunteth furie, then the banishment of feare, whiche
in a fielde is commonlie the cause of the ouerthow: Rashnes
mata be harsch, but cowardise is the shame of reason. Let vs
therefore put on resolution, to be readie vpon the first summon,
to answeare the enemie: ours is the better quartell, hee would
haue that he hath no nede of, and we cannot spare that he will
comande; now our pouertie hath made his pride to swell to
such a height, as I hope will come down: for if everie one be of
my minde, he shall haue a sharper breakfast, then he had a sup-
per: whiche if hee digest not the better, maie happe sticke in his
stomacke till his heart ake: our strengthes are well fortiffid,
but shall we looke on him a farre off: and be afraid to take him
by the hand? no, I am olde, and firs: to thee my sonne I speake,
& so to all my friends, I will never returne to my Court, with-
out great contentment to my countrey: and he that loueth me
or himselfe let him laie downe his lise with me in this seruice:
I will leade you, follow me that will, and let him die quoth his
sonne, that will not: to which prater was such a generall Amen,
that with the cheeresfullnesse of enerie one, it seemed they rather
thought of a banquet then a battaille. But not long they were in
this resolute consultation, but the two Ladies, before spoken of
nowe arm'd at all pointes like souldiers, were brought before

the Duke and his sonne, who after the reading of the letter, and deliuerie of the chaine of pearle, with much adoe obtained their suite, without the compaie of ane more then themselves; to trie their fortune in gaigning honore vpon the enemie, who leauing the Duke with his sonne in their tentes, in the dim night marched towardes the enemie, and upon the sodaine fearing to be desiried by some sconce, ambuscaded themselves, in such sort, that they would be sure of their purpose, ere they would put their honours in aduenture, where they had not long rested, till they mette with the happynesse of their whole hope: but I will leau them there close waiting for their fortune, and tell you a fewe wordes of Penillo the young Prince, sonne to the Duke Feronte.

This rosall spirited youth, euer spurring for the best fortune, and hauing that night obtained of the Duke his father, the charge of the watch for that night, and the leading of the van-garde the next morning; looking rounde about him, and seeing no cause of feare or doubt of enemie, the moone though dimme shining, yet giving so much light, as might desrie a lesse shadow then a souldier, with his truncheon in his hand, and his rapiere at his side, walking as it were carelesse of all fortune, thinking none within the hearing, say thus to talke to himselfe: Oh pore Penillo, the most unfortunat man living, to come with honour from the seruice vpon the Turke, and nowe to make a quarrell, with alas too weake a Christian, what shall I doe? I must followe my father, to fall out with my friende: Ordillo used me like himselfe, and shall I be ungratefull, in the greatest unkindnesse? but Bilancia my loue, what will she thinke of my faith, to shew me such frutes of my affection? Oh I am not my selfe, that cannot be hers, and yet in my heart I am hers, howe harde soever be my happe: but I must not be unnaturlall, and I would not be unkinde: what is to be done? Oh heauens doe that which I cannot desirre, loue is diuine, and as the nature is of my affection, so let me prosper in my fortune. Which word was scarcelie out, when the two unknowne souldiers laded hold of him, and carried him prisoner to the Duke Ordillo: before whom

whom when they had brought him, the Duke bad them say ne-
warde of their service, aske anie thing whatsoeuer his court or
countrey could assayde them, with protestation vpon the sworde
of honoar, not to denie, nor to delate them: but before the de-
mands of the soldiery for their promised rewarde, passed these
sewe swordes betwixt the two Princes.

Fantiro the yoong Prince seeing the sonne of his enimie pri-
soner, the more to abate as he thought, the pride of his spirit,
entertained him with his welcome. Your fortune is like your
quarell, no better then I wyl, and as it beginneth, so I hope
will bee the ende: disgrace at the first, thinke what will bee the
last. Well (quoth Penillo) I am nowe not my selfe, had not
fortune thus throwne me into thy handes, thou wouldest never
hauedared to haue ditered one of these swordes; and had I my
libertie, I woulde make thee shake for this presumption. Who,
me (quoth the Prince Fantiro) Thou art deceyued, thou shalt
see howe little account I make of thy too great minde, go take
thy libertie; see what thy second fortune can do vpon mee, but
hadst thou me at this aduantage, what wouldest thou do to me?
Use thee (quoth the Prince) nowe prisoner, as thou dost mee,
gine thee thy libertie for charitie. At which wordes the young
Prince Fantiro smilng at the greatnessse of so rotall a sprite,
With better wordes perswaded him to patience.

When the two Ladies taking off their Burgoynes, descry-
ing themselves to the great admiration of the Duke, the
young Prince, and the prisoner, and all the beholders neere
the mi, demanded their rewarde in this manner. Merilla by
her traauail through the Seas, losse of her fathers loue, her bro-
ther, friendes, and countrie, desired to haue for her rewarde the
young Prince Fantiro, whome the Duke with no little gladnes
was content to sel unto. Bilanci in the aduenture of her life,
in hatching of this hono: pleaded a blessing of the heauens
for the enjoying of her loue, which was the prisone. The other
yoong Prince, whose engis his fortune no worse then to fall in-
to such faire hands, was nothing unwilling to haue the Dukes
sworde performed. But I will leaue them a while determining
oldata.

of the event of these fortunes, and I will speake a little of the duke Feronte and his passions.

Nowe the morning following the duke expecting his sons comming to his Tent, to take the charge of the vanguard for that daye in the service intended, but neyther seeing, nor hearing of him so long that he greeve into some feare, least some mishap or other was come unto him, fell at last into this speech with himself. Oh Feronte, under what planet wert thou bor[n] to what offence hast thou committed against the heauens, to haue these heauie fortunes befall thee, in thy aged yeeres, thy onelie daughter as full of vertue, as honour could wish, to bee stolne from thy Court, by a stranger, and perhaps thine enimie: thy sonne more deare to thee then thy selfe, hauing wonne honouer in the service of the Emperour, to loose it in the gouernment of a meane Prince: nais more dost thou not rather doubt of his deathe, then hope of his life, having no notice what maye become of him. Oh too much valour I feare hath made thee too forward: Is it possible that thou liuest, if thou hast lighted into the hands of thine enimies? No, thy sprite is so great, that it will not let thee yelde but to death; and if thou doss live howe canst thou hope of any thing, but euelt is, knowing the condition of my committing? Well, all thinges are at the heauens disposing, to whome I will referre the hope of my comfort: If thou liuest Sonne, I will redeeme thee; and if thou diest, I will follow thee. And thus in extreame passion, determinyng the aduenture of his owne life, to take revenge of his sons fortune, upon the sodaine came a Herald of Armes from Ordillo the Duke, with this Ambassage unto him, that if it woulde please him to remit all iniurie, and to accept the submision of much loue; the intended warre shoulde turne to a continuall peace: he shoulde haue the demande of his desire, and more contentement then he could expect.

This message in the midle of his manie grieves, so pacified his wrath, that he bad y Herald tell his master, that his words were currant weight with him, and that if he woulde in person meeete him betweene both the campes, he shoulde see what comfortable

so fable effect his kindness had wrought with him : with which wordes, and a bountifull rewarde for his god message , hee returned to the Duke his master, who vpon the receipt of the message, came presentlie out of his tent, & met with þ Duke Feronte, according to appointment , to whome after a kin d of humble greeting, he recounted all that happened of both their chldren, and that in regard of the debt that he confessed due unto him, he would if with his favour hee might endowe his daughter with his whole Dukedom, which discourse, and profer so pleased his much appawled mind, that causing al the chldren to be brought togither on either side , in stede of sharpe intended war , made so blessed a peace, that the houses united in mariage, liued ever after in much loue, & the souldiers al commanded to late by their Armes, after much feasting, and manie triumphes returned home with no little sorte.

F I N I S.

